

Hafa Adai!

'House, Senate committees should already act on federal funding bill.' **PAGE 2**

PSS' STEM initiative 1 of 15 project proposals chosen by Smithsonian Education Center. **PAGE 3**

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M/S Asuka II returns to Saipan

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The M/S Asuka II, a small, luxury line cruise ship, pulled into the port of Saipan at around 7:30am yesterday morning and departed at 5pm en route to its next destination.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

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REPORTER

The CNMI continues to see visiting cruises make port calls on Saipan with the fourth one, **See ASUKA on Page 4**

Asiana suspends regular flights

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

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REPORTER

Asiana Airlines has suspended its regular scheduled Incheon-Saipan flights indefinitely and is currently operating on a charter basis until June.

On Sunday, March 3, Asiana Airlines saw its last regular scheduled flight from Incheon to Saipan and is

now operating on a charter basis only. According to Hwang In-Tak, Asiana

See ASIANA on Page 4

SIS student to represent entire Pacific at spelling nationals

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

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CORRESPONDENT

A daughter of Saipan didn't just impress but slayed at the 2024 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam last Saturday when she not only won the champion title, but also got the chance to represent the entire Pacific at the national spelling bee this May.

After 15 rounds of the four-hours-long competition, **See SIS on Page 4**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School seventh grader Alleena Villaluz at the 2024 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam last Saturday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alleena Villaluz bested over 59 elementary and middle school students from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and other schools in the CNMI to win the 2024 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam last Saturday.

Palacios raises concerns with NMFS' proposed rule on critical coral habitat near infra projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has expressed general concern with the National Marine Fisheries Service's proposal to designate coral critical habitat in the immediate



Palacios

vicinity of coastal infrastructure projects.

Palacios said the cultural and historical ties that the CNMI island communities have with the surrounding waters and its resources are undisputable, as the

See PALACIOS on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

A federal report by the Government Accountability Office conclude that climate change could disturb nuclear waste left in Greenland and the Marshall Islands.

PAGE 5



WORLD

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rebuked a top Cabinet minister arriving in Washington on Sunday for talks with U.S. officials.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

Armed with sandworms, big screen spectacle and the star power of Timothée Chalamet, "Dune: Part Two" stormed the North American box office this weekend earning \$81.5 million in ticket sales.

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Local

'House, Senate committees should already act on federal funding bill'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

It's been more than two months since the Senate and the House of Representatives created their respective conference committees to hammer out an acceptable version of a bill that would mandate the Legislature to appropriate all federal funds allocated to the CNMI, but the Senate conferees are still waiting for the House conferees to agree to a meeting date, according to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan). In a letter addressed to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) dated Monday, Feb. 26, DeLeon Guerrero wrote that the House and Senate conference committees have yet to meet to discuss House Bill 23-9, HS1, SD2.

The Senate president said in the letter—a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday—that the fiscal year 2025 CNMI budget is coming up and the bill is an important financial legislation that must be addressed right away.

She urged Villagomez to move forward with the conference committees tasked to address the legislation.

"Accordingly, we seek your assistance in scheduling a meeting for the conferees to dispose of the bill," said DeLeon Guerrero in the letter.

Last Dec. 14, the House rejected the Senate's version

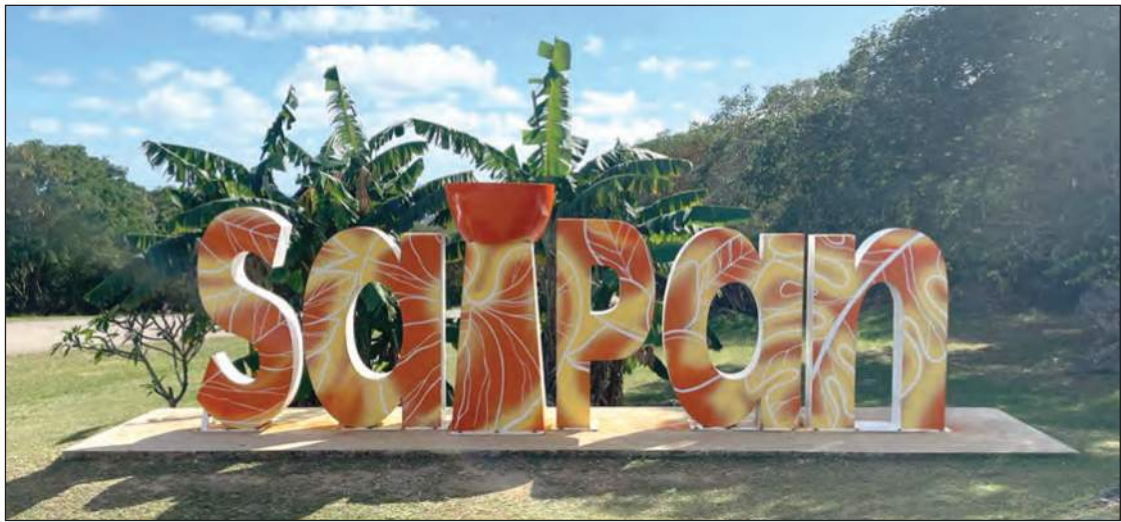
of the House bill, which was authored by Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan). Yangetmai said they rejected the Senate amendments since federal reimbursements are not new funds that need to be re-appropriated.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said during the Dec. 14 House session that when federal agencies remit money back to the CNMI in the form of federal reimbursements, the government just puts the money back into the general fund kitty. What that Senate amendment does, Attao said, is it double taxes the general fund.

The following day, Dec. 15, the House appointed four members to serve as conferees, with Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) appointed as the chairperson for the House conferees.

Last Dec. 19, DeLeon Guerrero announced at a Senate session that she has organized a conference committee and appointed four senators to serve as Senate conferees. Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) was appointed chair for the Senate conference committee.

DeLeon Guerrero said at the Dec. 19 session that the Senate conference committee is critical for the Commonwealth, primarily because the Federal Emergency Management Agency had just reimbursed the CNMI government.



KEEPING IT FRESH

Highlighting local flora, the Marianas Visitors Authority revealed a new look on Feb. 26, 2024, for the iconic Saipan sign in Marpi, a breadfruit and taro leaf motif by local artists Peter Aldan and Tim "Sois" Deleon Guerrero.

MVA

Woman who admitted to drug use while on probation is summoned

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request of the U.S. Probation Office to summon a woman who admitted to using drugs while on probation.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request of U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola to summon Vickilyn Ramonica Manglona Teregeyo to a hearing to answer or show cause why her supervised release should not be revoked or modified based on two positive tests results showing that she used methamphetamine.

In support of the request for a summons, Arriola filed two supplemental declarations noting two positive tests results indicative of methamphetamine use, as well as Teregeyo's failure to report to the U.S. Probation Office since Feb. 2, 2024.

At a hearing on Feb. 15, 2024, Teregeyo admitted to using methamphetamine four times and failing to report to the U.S. Probation Office.

A disposition hearing was set in April 2024 in order to allow Teregeyo to pursue drug counseling treatment.

Most recently, Arriola filed an informational report requesting a summons because Teregeyo had rescinded her authorization that allowed the HOPE Recovery Center to release information to the U.S. Probation Office.

"Without the authorization, U.S. Probation is unable to monitor her treatment, which was the basis for the delayed disposition hearing. Based on the foregoing, the court grants the request and orders the issuance of a summons," said Manglona's order.

According to court documents, a petition for summons for offender under supervision was filed after last Jan. 16, 2024, after Teregeyo tested positive for the use of methamphetamine from Dec. 1 to Dec. 8, 2023, and Dec. 13 to Dec. 21, 2023.

On Jan. 24, Teregeyo appeared before Manglona for an initial appearance on a revocation hearing.

Through attorney Richard Miller, she admitted to the two positive drug test results.

At the request of Miller and with no objection from the government, the matter was continued to March 13, to allow Teregeyo to continue seeking more intensive substance abuse treatment services.

On Feb. 7, a supplemental declaration was filed after Teregeyo tested positive for the use of methamphetamine on a sweat patch applied on her person from Jan. 9 to Jan. 12.

Additionally, Teregeyo failed to follow the instructions of the probation officer by failing to report to the U.S. Probation Office on Feb. 2.

A warrant of arrest was requested after multiple attempts to contact Teregeyo, to include a home visit, were unsuccessful.

The request was granted by Manglona on Feb. 9.

On Feb. 12, Teregeyo self-surrendered to the U.S. Marshal Service and on the same date appeared before Manglona for a revocation hearing.

During the hearing, additional violations relating to the drug test sweat patch were reported by the U.S. Probation Office.

Additionally, Teregeyo admitted that she used methamphetamine on Feb. 10, 2023.

Miller apprised the court of an available bedspace at the HOPE Recovery Center for Teregeyo.

The matter was continued to Feb. 15, to allow Miller and the U.S. Probation Office

to get more updates from the HOPE Recovery Center.

Teregeyo was remanded back to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

On Feb. 15, Teregeyo reappeared before Manglona and admitted to all the allegations reported by the U.S. Probation Office but denied the allegation that she had tampered with one of the sweat patches.

During the hearing the court was updated about a bedspace that had been reserved for Teregeyo at the HOPE Recovery Center.

After hearing from the parties, Manglona ordered that Teregeyo be released to allow her to self-report to the HOPE Recovery Center for residential substance abuse treatment.

After the hearing, Teregeyo was released from the CNMI Department of Corrections and was able to self-report to the HOPE Recovery Center later that evening.

On Feb. 28, Arriola contacted the HOPE Recovery Center to visit Teregeyo and get an update on her progress. However, a staff member advised that they could not release any information relating to Teregeyo as she had rescinded her authorization to release information to the U.S. Probation Office on Feb. 26.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division will start the CNMI 2024 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey beginning on March 01, 2024 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers (Private & Public), with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2024.

Data Collection Portal Link:
<https://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

FEMA awards PSS 2 grants totaling \$1.4M for typhoon-related windows and doors

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the Public School System two grants totaling \$1.4 million for the installation of typhoon-resistant windows and doors in schools in the CNMI, according to Delegate Grego-

rio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that FEMA announced Wednesday that the two grants will be used to install 911 impact-resistant doors and window across schools on Saipan and Tinian.

Overall, PSS has received over \$58 million in FEMA grants, and the Marianas has been awarded over \$307 million in the six years since typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu hit the CNMI.

Others that received FEMA grants are the Governor's Office, \$16.7 million; Tinian Municipality, \$13.1 mil-

lion; Commonwealth Ports Authority, \$10.2 million; Other grant awards, \$5.7 million; Saipan Municipality/Department of Public Safety, \$5 million; Hazard Mitigation Assistance, \$4.5 million; CNMI Statement Management Costs, \$2.8 million; CNMI Judiciary, \$2.2 million; and Mount Carmel School, \$1.3 million.



Sablan

PSS' STEM initiative 1 of 15 project proposals chosen by Smithsonian Education Center



PSS

From left, State Education Agency Mental Health director Dr. Bobby Cruz, team leader and PSS Instructional Technology coach Dr. Riya Nathrani, and Science Program manager Asapmar Ogumuro. Not in photo is Statewide Longitudinal Data System program manager Dr. Annette Pladevega-Sablan.

The "Pacific & Indigenous Perspectives Driving STEM" initiative, chosen among 15 nationwide project proposals by the Smithsonian Education Center, aims to revolutionize STEM education within Pacific Islander communities. Led by Dr. Riya Nathrani, serving as the team leader and PSS Instructional Technology coach, the project boasts a diverse team including Dr. Bobby Cruz, State Education Agency Mental Health director; Asapmar Ogumuro, Science Program manager under the Office of Curriculum and Instruction; and Dr. Annette Pladevega, project director for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

This interdisciplinary endeavor bridges the gap between academic theories and real-world applications, enriching learning experiences by integrating Pacific Islander cultural values, particularly *Inafa'maolek/Tipi-yew*, or "restoring harmony," into STEM education. This approach not only connects students with STEM but also nurtures their cultural heritage, fostering transformative learning experiences.

Nathrani and Ogumuro attended the Smithsonian STEM Education Summit from Feb. 23 to 25 in Washington, D.C., an annual event hosted by the Smithsonian Science Education Center in partnership with Shell USA, Inc. The summit addresses the imperative of diversity in the STEM teaching workforce, convening leadership teams nationwide to create actionable plans aimed at attracting and retaining minority STEM teachers.

During the summit, the team collaborated with their mentor, Dr. Lanise Stevenson, a professor at John Hopkins University with expertise in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Together, they formulated an action plan involving the infusion of culturally relevant STEM concepts into existing curricula, comprehensive teacher training, and rigorous evaluations. By em-

bedding STEM within the cultural fabric of the community, this initiative not only teaches students crucial STEM skills but also fosters their cultural pride.

Nathrani expressed appreciation for the summit, stating, "The insights and strategies shared at the Smithsonian STEM Education Summit are invaluable in our mission to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable STEM education landscape. I am excited to break down barriers and create pathways for all students to pursue STEM fields."

The 2024 Diversity in STEM Education Summit highlights the Smithsonian



PSS

Dr. Bobby Cruz and Dr. Riya Nathrani are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.



PSS

Dr. Riya Nathrani and Asapmar Ogumuro at the Smithsonian STEM Education Summit, which was held from Feb. 23 to 25 in Washington, D.C.

Science Education Center's commitment to driving meaningful change in STEM education. Participants in the

program receive support, including travel and accommodations, to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. (PR)



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PSS

The team's mentor, Dr. Lanise Stevenson, center, is a professor at John Hopkins University with expertise in diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board Meeting** on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Proposed FY 2025 Budget
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Executive Session ***
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)
- V. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO
Chairwoman, CUC Board of Directors

* All interested persons are welcome to attend, submit written and oral testimony on the above-Agenda items.
** Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Executive Director Wanted

Are you passionate about preserving and promoting the rich history and culture of the Northern Mariana Islands? Do you possess the leadership skills to steer a dynamic museum towards excellence? If so, we want to hear from you!

Go to www.nmimuseum.org to view Examination Announcement No. 24-030 and submit an Application for Employment by March 11, 2024.

For more information, contact Archie Ajoste, archie.ajoste@gmail.com, or 670-664-2160.



CCC requests \$4.2M budget for FY 2025

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is asking for a \$4.2-million budget for its operations and other costs in fiscal year 2025.

In their budget request sent last week to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and special assistant for management and budget Virginia C. Villagomez, acting CCC board chair Rafael S. Demapan, and CCC executive director Andrew Yeom said

the \$4,278,881 will be used for personnel, operations, and other related costs to enable the CCC to implement its casino statutory and regulatory mandates.

Of this amount, \$1,108,831 will be used for wages and salaries, board compensation, and other operational costs, Demapan and Yeom said.

They noted that there is uncertainty whether Saipan exclusive casino licensee Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC will be able

to pay the overdue regulatory fees and the penalties that have been assessed against it.

Demapan and Yeom requested assistance and approval from Palacios and Villagomez in appropriating at least \$1.1 million to keep the CCC afloat for at least a year.

The two officials said they are aware that there is a public sentiment to shut down the commission since there is no gaming activity. However, they noted that CCC's existence is necessary as

long as there's still a valid casino license.

The CCC's office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai has been temporarily closed since Jan. 19, 2023 due to the lack of funds.

The CCC has been facing a budget crisis after IPI was temporarily closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ASUKA

From page 1

the M/S *Asuka II*, making a daylong stop yesterday.

NYK Cruises' *Asuka II* returned to Saipan yesterday after over two years since its last visit back in 2021.

The *Asuka II*, a small, luxury line cruise ship, pulled into the Saipan port at around 7:30am yesterday morning and departed at 5pm en route to its next destination.

During its brief stay, the *Asuka II* brought in over 800 passengers and over 500 crew members.

The 1990-built cruise ship (known then as *Crystal Har-*

mony) is owned and operated by NYK Cruises Co. Ltd.—a subsidiary of the Japanese container shipping company, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha/NYK Line.

The ship's namesake (MS *Asuka*) is currently operated under charter by Phoenix Reisen under the name *Amadea*.

The *Asuka II* began its journey earlier this year, starting in Yokohama, Japan.

According to NYK Cruises' website, the *Asuka II* was built in Japan over 34 years ago and was built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Nagasaki for NYK's former subsidiary, Crystal Cruises.

In 2006, *Crystal Har-*

mony) is owned and operated by NYK Cruises Co. Ltd.—a subsidiary of the Japanese container shipping company, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha/NYK Line.

Asuka II's visit comes just a week after the last cruise ship visit, the M/S *Artania*, which made its maiden voyage to Saipan last Feb. 26, bringing in over 1,500 visitors.

Prior to the M/S *Artania*, the M/S *Zuiderdam* visited Saipan and brought in over 1,000 passengers.

Holland America Line's M/S *Zuiderdam*, a mid-size cruise ship, made its first voyage to Saipan back in February.

The largest cruise ship the CNMI saw this year was

the MSC *Bellissima*, which brought nearly 4,000 Japanese tourists to Saipan last Jan. 4 for a day when the cruise ship made a port call on Saipan.

Thanks to these cruise ship visits, the CNMI's tourism industry has been energized with over 7,000 visitors getting off the ships to see what Saipan has to offer.

During each visit, vendors lined up at the Port of Saipan with their goods, ready to give visitors a taste of the CNMI's food and culture.

Dive companies, tour guides, and Mañagaha Island charters also lined up at the port, ready to accommodate the visitors.

SIS

From page 1

Alleena Villaluz, a seventh grader at Saipan International School, secured victory over 59 elementary and middle school students from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and other schools in the CNMI, despite this being her first regional spelling contest.

A *Pacific Daily News* report quoted one of judges, Rotary Club of Guam's Leslie Crouthamel, as saying this year's competition was one of the longest she has ever en-

countered during her tenure on the competition panel.

The final rounds boiled down to a nail-biting contest between Villaluz and James Justo, a third grader from iLearn Academy Charter School Guam. As part of the challenge in the final rounds, they each had to correctly spell two words in order to win the championship. Villaluz clinched it by correctly spelling the word "sieve."

"[In] the first three rounds, a lot of people were getting eliminated, but in the last 10 or so rounds, it was pretty long because me and one other boy were competing

for the championship round [and] you have to spell two words correctly to be the champion, and we both got the first word right, but then we got the second word wrong, so we had to keep going in that cycle, basically," she said in a later interview.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that, although she had prepared, she was not expecting to win.

"I was nervous at first, but then as the rounds got on, my nervousness dropped more and more, and I got a little more confident with my spelling," she said.

Villaluz said this was her first regional spelling bee. In

the last three years, she has only made it to the school-wide spelling bees at SIS, "so this is my first [regional] competition."

"I started preparing about two weeks prior to the event and I used a spelling bee word list provided by my teacher, the Scripps Spelling Bee word list, and I also used an app called WordClub. I used it to test my spelling and vocabulary, so those both really helped me," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ASIANA

From page 1

Asiana Airlines Saipan station manager said, Asiana's Incheon-Saipan service has always been a regular scheduled flight up until Sunday.

"The last flight of the regular schedule was Sunday. We do have flights, but we are now operating as a charter flight until June. Operation days remain the same, twice a week. The schedule is twice a week, every Thursday morning and Sunday morning," he said.

As of yesterday, there has been no confirmation from Asiana's main headquarters in Korea if flights will continue

past June, In-Tak said.

"We don't have a plan to return to our regular schedule yet. So far, we will be operating on a charter basis up to June and then we will see from there. After June, there is no confirmation yet, but according to our headquarters, there might be an extension in operations because July and August are when we usually see the demand pick up," he said.

When asked for the reason behind the sudden suspension of regular flights, In-Tak said it was due to low demand and the recent increase in the airport usage fees on Saipan.

Fortunately, In-Tak said, the CNMI administration has expressed its intent to help Asiana with the fees, although

details about this remains unclear for now.

"We had suspended flights due to low demand of passengers, and also the charges at the airport. The government, however, is trying to help us in terms of these charges by adjusting them so that's good news," he said.

Back in September, the Commonwealth Ports Authority adopted a new rate methodology that reflected a 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees.

With the increase, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal went up from \$19.49 per square foot to \$34.92. The

terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals went up from \$7.79 to \$13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA now charges international airline carriers \$15.25 per thousand lbs of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged \$8.01.

As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase brought landing fees up from \$4.81 to \$9.15.

Aside from the rate increases, the CPA board also adopted an eight-hour cut for all CPA employees and suspended its airline incentive program.

In addition, CPA also increased the rates at the Saipan airport's parking lot.

It's Super Tuesday! Let the NMI Democratic Primary begin!

Super Tuesday is the day in the presidential primary cycle when the most states vote. The exact number varies by year, but it is common for a third of all delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention to be awarded on Super Tuesday.

NMI Democrats are hosting their presidential preference primary on what is known as "Super Tuesday" with 15 states and one territory: Alabama, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands will host its Presidential Primary on March 5-12 on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The primaries will be the first step in the CNMI's participation in this nationwide process, and during this time, not only will Democrats elect their presidential nominee, they will also elect delegates to attend the 2024 Democratic National Convention, which will take place on Aug. 19-22, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. The national convention will nominate the Democratic Party candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America.

Democrats and registered voters of the CNMI who would like to participate in tomorrow's primary are encouraged and welcome to participate. Individuals who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov. 5, 2024, will

be able to visit any of the polling sites and cast votes for their Democratic presidential candidate of choice.

From March 5 to March 11, voters can exercise their right to vote at the following locations: on Saipan at the BEN-CAM Building in Garapan, Suite 106 (first floor), from 10am to 7pm; on Tinian at the Tinian Fuel Station from 9am to 6pm; and on Rota, at the Guata Beach Park Pavilion from 9am to 6pm.

On March 12, the final day of the primary, the polling sites on Tinian and Rota will be open from 8am to 12pm, and on Saipan from 8am to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"The convention is a great opportunity to talk with political leaders across the United States about the issues we face at home. It's still sad that most people living in the U.S. are unaware of their fellow citizens in the territories," said Angelo Villagomez, who is on the ballot for tomorrow's primary and will be joining the delegation for the Democratic National Convention in August.

Additional delegates on the primary ballot pledged to President Joe Biden are Nola Kileleman Hix, Shawna Evangelista Indalecio, Joan Flores Reyes, Leila Fleming Staffler, and Stephen C. Woodruff.

For more information visit www.nmidems.org, email info@nmidems.org, or contact 484-DEMS(3367). (PR)

PALACIOS

From page 1

dependency on coastal infrastructure is to support people's quality of life.

He said this includes the CNMI's commercial harbor facilities and associated channels, small boat marinas, shoreline protection structures, and finally, municipal wastewater outfalls.

The governor raised the issue in a letter last Thursday to Janet Coit, who is the assistant administrator for Fisheries at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Directorate, regarding NMFS' proposed rule that would designate critical habitat for seven threatened corals in U.S. waters in the Indo-Pacific.

Palacios wanted to personally express a concern he has with NMFS proposing critical habitat adjacent to existing and planned coastal infrastructure projects in the NMI.

The governor said although he cannot speak for other

Western Pacific Island leaders, he believes this concern is shared regionally.

Palacios said he is not diminishing the importance of the Endangered Species Act, but the coastal infrastructure is more critical to the island community's well-being then designating critical habitat around CNMI's coastal infrastructure is to the recovery of a geographically wide-ranging threatened coral species.

In regard to habitat limitations, Palacios said the NMFS states that Acropora corals "are the most sensitive of all reef-building corals" to sedimentation and poor water quality.

He said using this metric alone, designating critical habitat adjacent to existing or proposed coastal infrastructure features, especially harbors, ship channels, marinas, and wastewater outfalls, would not be regulatorily prudent.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Decades after the US buried nuclear waste abroad, climate change could unearth it

By ANITA HOFSCHEIDER
Grist

Editor's Note: This story was originally published by Grist. Sign up for Grist's weekly newsletter at https://go.grist.org/signup/weekly/partner?utm_campaign=republish-content&utm_medium=syndication&utm_source=partner.

Ariana Tibon was in college at the University of Hawai'i in 2017 when she saw the photo online: a black-and-white picture of a man holding a baby. The caption said: "Nelson Anjain getting his baby monitored on March 2, 1954, by an AEC RadSafe team member on Rongelap two days after 'Bravo.'"

Tibon had never seen the man before. But she recognized the name as her great-grandfather's. At the time, he was living on Rongelap in the Marshall Islands when the U.S. conducted Castle Bravo, the largest of 67 nuclear weapon tests there during the Cold War. The tests displaced and sickened Indigenous people, poisoned fish, upended traditional food practices, and caused cancers and other negative health repercussions that continue to reverberate today.

A federal report by the Government Accountability Office published last month examines what's left of that nuclear contamination, not only in the Pacific but also in Greenland and Spain. The authors conclude that climate change could disturb nuclear waste left in Greenland and the Marshall Islands. "Rising sea levels could spread contamination in RMI, and conflicting risk assessments cause residents to distrust radiological information from the U.S. Department of Energy," the report says.

In Greenland, chemical pollution and radioactive liquid are frozen in ice sheets, left over from a nuclear power plant on a U.S. military research base where scientists studied the potential to install nuclear missiles. The report didn't specify how or where nuclear contamination could migrate in the Pacific or Greenland, or what if any health risks that might pose to people living nearby. However, the authors did note that in Greenland, frozen waste could be exposed by 2100.

"The possibility to influence the environment is there, which could further affect the food chain and further affect the people living in the area as well," said Hjalmar Dahl, president of Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland. The country is about 90 percent Inuit. "I think it is important that the Greenland and U.S. governments have to communicate



U.S. military officers watch nuclear waste being dumped on Runit Island in the Marshall Islands.

on this worrying issue and prepare what to do about it."

The authors of the GAO study wrote that Greenland and Denmark haven't proposed any cleanup plans, but also cited studies that say much of the nuclear waste has already decayed and will be diluted by melting ice. However, those studies do note that chemical waste such as polychlorinated biphenyls, man-made chemicals better known as PCBs that are carcinogenic, "may be the most consequential waste at Camp Century."

The report summarizes disagreements between Marshall Islands officials and the U.S. Department of Energy regard-

ing the risks posed by U.S. nuclear waste. The GAO recommends that the agency adopt a communications strategy for conveying information about the potential for pollution to the Marshallese people.

Nathan Anderson, a director at the Government Accountability Office, said the United States' responsibilities in the Marshall Islands "are defined by specific federal statutes and international agreements." He noted that the government of the Marshall Islands previously agreed to settle claims related to damages from U.S. nuclear testing.

"It is the long-standing position of the U.S. government

that, pursuant to that agreement, the Republic of the Marshall Islands bears full responsibility for its lands, including those used for the nuclear testing program."

To Tibon, who is back home in the Marshall Islands and is currently chair of the National Nuclear Commission, the fact that the report's only recommendation is a new communications strategy is mystifying. She's not sure how that would help the Marshallese people.

"What we need now is action and implementation on environmental remediation. We don't need a communication strategy," she said. "If they know that it's contaminated,

why wasn't the recommendation for next steps on environmental remediation, or what's possible to return these lands to safe and habitable conditions for these communities?"

The Biden administration recently agreed to fund a new museum to commemorate those affected by nuclear testing as well as climate change initiatives in the Marshall Islands, but the initiatives have repeatedly failed to garner support from Congress, even though they're part of an ongoing treaty with the

Marshall Islands and a broader national security effort to shore up goodwill in the Pacific to counter China.

This article originally appeared in Grist at <https://grist.org/indigenous/decades-after-the-us-buried-nuclear-waste-abroad-climate-change-could-unearth-it/>.

Grist is a nonprofit, independent media organization dedicated to telling stories of climate solutions and a just future. Learn more at [Grist.org](https://grist.org)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS), in collaborations with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division (DOC-CSD) will begin visits in mid-March 2024 to all farms on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to conduct the CNMI 2023 Census of Agriculture data collection.

Response to the Census of Agriculture is required by Federal Law, under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 and as well as the CNMI 1990 Statistical Act Public Law 7-35.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION (CUC SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. The IFB package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided via email to the registered email ID. Prospective bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-020, Supply & Delivery of Lube Oils for Power Generation" to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950**, no later than **March 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. An electronic copy should also be emailed to Marcela Tenorio via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements during the Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the bid under this request, procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contract may be subject to the approval of CPUC and will not be effective until receipt of such approval.

All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent's obligation upon award of a contract. Successful proponents must submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON, JR.
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536 TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2024 First General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 06, 2024 – 10:00a – 1:30pm Venue: Aqua Resort Club – Paluma Room Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of March 06, 2024
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of the FY 2023 Statewide Independent Living Council Joint Meeting with SRC on September 21, 2023.
- V. Reports
 - a. SILC Chairperson
 - b. CLI Executive Director
 - c. OVR Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Update
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call James M. Rayphand, OVR Director at 322-6537/6538 or email jimbo@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements in advance before the meeting date.

/s/ Nicolas DLC Torres, SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services, Assisted Community Living, Grant #2301MPLSG.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

McConnell's wins, America's losses: A Senate partisan departs



What is Mitch McConnell's legacy as leader of Senate Republicans? A lot of procedurally astute but brazenly hypocritical moves to strengthen the power of his party in the chamber.

He twisted the rules to set a pernicious, disrespectful, anti-democratic precedent that in an election year, a president's Supreme Court nominee would be summarily denied hearings. And so, Justice Antonin Scalia's replacement was not Merrick Garland, tapped by President Barack Obama, but Neil Gorsuch, chosen by Donald Trump.

Then, in a breathtaking turnaround in 2020, McConnell ignored his own rule to rush through another Trump choice, Amy Coney Barrett, to fill the seat vacated by the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

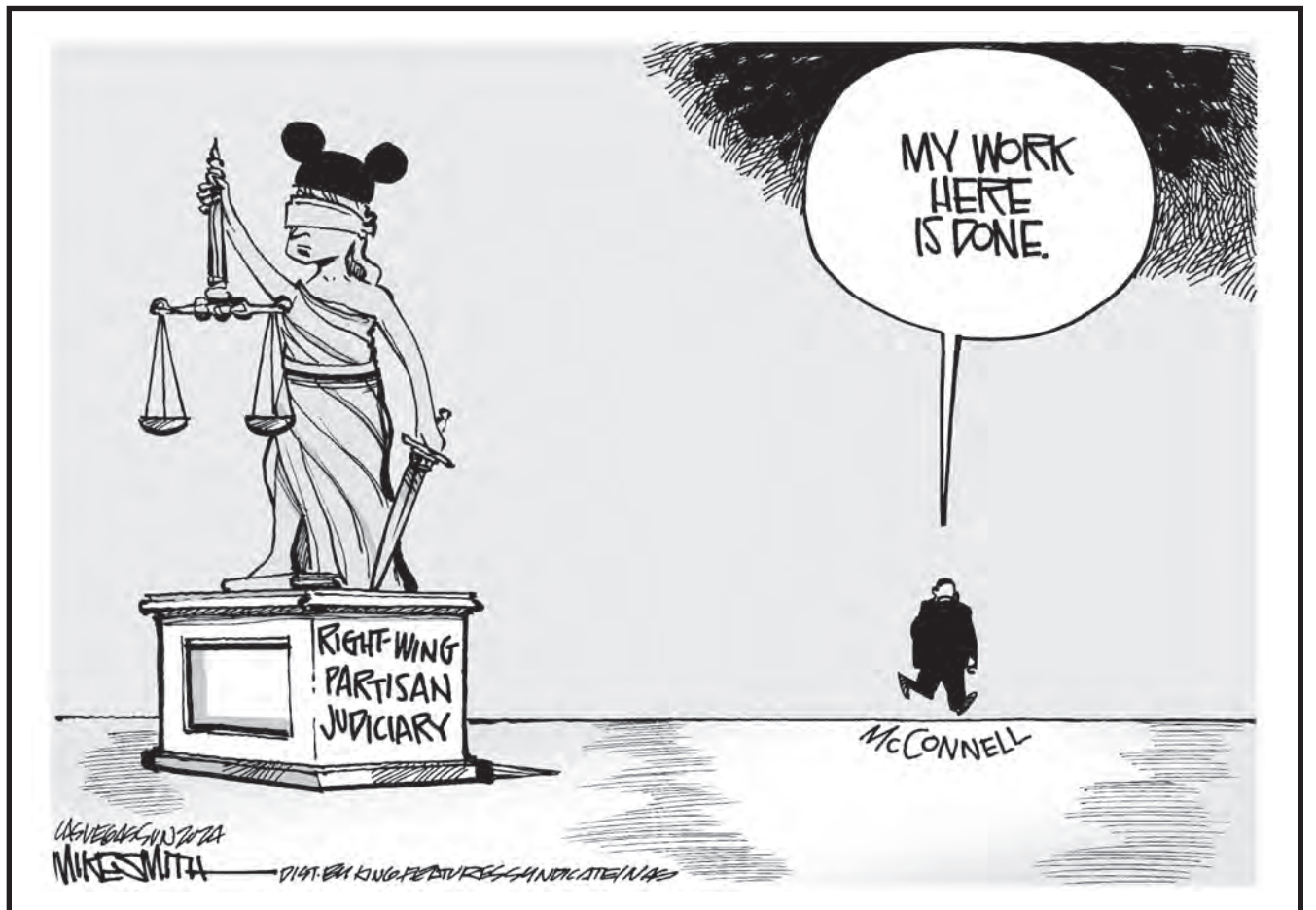
In early 2021, he voted to acquit Trump in his second impeachment trial over his role on Jan. 6 and his refusal to accept the 2020 election results—failing to take the one definitive step that would have barred the demagogue and wannabe dictator from holding any office again.

In practically the same breath, he took to the Senate floor and delivered pointed remarks truthfully stating that “Jan. 6 was a disgrace,” and that “American citizens attacked their own government. They used terrorism to try to stop a specific piece of democratic business they did not like,” and that “they did this because they had been fed wild falsehoods by the most powerful man on Earth—because he was angry he’d lost an election,” and that “former President Trump’s actions preceding the riot were a disgraceful dereliction of duty.”

When the president was named George W. Bush, McConnell pressed for unpaid-for tax cuts that gave the biggest benefits to highest-income Americans. When the president was named Obama, McConnell tacked hard in the wind, blaming the president for every dollar of budget imbalance and using the nation's debt limit as a bargaining tool.

When the president was named Trump, McConnell again

See MCCONNELL'S on Page 7



When we develop technology without morality, we get the Alabama in-vitro ruling

I have spent several days reading coverage of the recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling that recognized extrauterine embryos as children.

Then I read the court's actual decision and found that the two—the coverage and the ruling—have almost nothing in common.

Headlines decry how the court has effectively “ended in-vitro fertilization” in the state, with breathless reports of clinics closing. Panicked current and prospective IVF parents, even some in Texas are described as “sleepless” and “scrambling”—to do what exactly, I’m not sure.

And they belie the reality of a legal determination that might actually be seen as an ultimate good for IVF consumers in Alabama, who are at the mercy of an industry that is embarrassingly lucrative and largely unregulated.

The plaintiffs in this case are sympathetic figures: three couples and IVF parents whose frozen embryos were lost due to poor security at the facility where they were stored.

Indeed, as the court recounts, a patient—not a doctor or medical professional—easily entered the cryogenic nursery at the hospital where the embryos were kept, took several out of storage and dropped them on the floor, killing them.

What parent, regardless of circumstances, would not find that devastating, not to mention infuriating?

Worth noting is that the matter is not criminal, but civil. The clinic was not accused or found guilty of murder, as I’ve heard some people suggest.

Instead, the plaintiffs sued the clinic where the embryos were created under a 150-year-old statute that allows parents to seek punitive damages “when the death of [their] minor child is caused by the wrongful act, omission, or negligence of any person.”

There is no dispute about the circumstances of the embryos’ destruction, either.

And the most important fact omitted from much coverage of the case is that there is absolutely no dispute between the parties—the clinic and the parents—about when life begins.

Everyone agrees that it begins the moment the embryos are created. That was not a finding of the court.

The defendants even admitted during oral argument that the “embryo is a life”—no small concession in a cultural environment where it is acceptable to refer to unborn children as “balls of cells” as a justification to abort them up until birth. But I digress.

Ultimately, the case hinges on whether or not an embryo is excluded under the Alabama statute when it is not located inside a biological uterus at the time of its death.

In other words, an extrauterine embryo is a life, but not a child, according to the defendants; the plaintiffs contend that the embryo is both.

The court sided with the plaintiffs. But it’s the kind of argument

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



that can make your head explode. When the wrongful death statute was passed, the lawmakers could not have conceived of a time when embryos would ever exist outside of a womb and therefore did not include or exclude them in the language of the law.

And why would they?

IVF is the stuff of science fiction movies, even 40 years after the technology resulted in its first successful birth.

Plainly, the Alabama ruling is the logical consequence of a society that developed a medical technology long before it established an ethical or legal framework to govern it.

The lone dissenter on the court essentially makes this textualist case—that the law does not presuppose extrauterine embryos as children because they weren’t even notional when it was written.

It’s a completely reasonable and, dare I say, “conservative,” legal argument, albeit one I disagree with.

Still, none of the facts or actual arguments of the case are relevant to the debates we’re having.

Instead we’re consumed by wildly mendacious claims that this is the latest salvo in some Republican war on parents with infertility; that this decision is a natural successor to the Supreme Court’s Dobbs ruling and the fight to outlaw abortion; or that new laws must be passed to enshrine a right to IVF. (If we need new laws at all, it’s to regulate an industry that’s like the Wild West.)

Linking the IVF decision to Donald Trump or abortion may be politically savvy, but it’s wholly inaccurate.

There’s an irony to the reports of Alabama IVF families trying to transfer their embryos out of state.

While many have argued that the liability exposure to clinics will make IVF procedures in Alabama financially untenable for most families (at \$30,000 a pop, it already is), it should also make the care for and storage of embryos much more secure.

If clinics can be held financially responsible for the negligent destruction of the life in their care, they will have greater incentive to make sure it is safe.

But who needs such reason and logic when there are prospective parents to scare, money to make and political points to be won?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What not to ask the loved ones of those who have died by suicide

No, I did not know.

In late July of 2019, I had dinner in New York with one of my dearest friends. We split a mediocre dessert, he walked me home, we hugged. A few nights later, he took his own life.

In the wake of his death, people asked if I knew it was coming, if there were signs, if I could work the whole thing in reverse. Perhaps they'd grown accustomed to asking. Suicide has been on a steady rise in the U.S., particularly in adults. In 2022, nearly 50,000 Americans died by suicide. The surgeon general has dubbed mental health "the defining health crisis of our time."

Because a crisis of this magnitude will not be solved overnight, the need for etiquette dealing with the involuntary collective known as "the loved ones" has become a strange bellwether of the problem. I still worry about offending people who have been traumatized by suicide, and I'm one of them. But if we are to give those asking questions the benefit of the doubt, surely we can extend that same benefit to those in the unfortunate position of replying. To that end, I suggest eliminating "did you know?" as a reaction to suicide.

Many people who die by suicide suffer from demonstrable depression, ideations or past attempts—battles that rage externally as well as internally. But not all cases are like this. And regardless of any indications along the road, "did you know?" induces dread for those left behind, compounding grief with feelings of futility.

What, exactly, is being asked of us? (Was my friend someone who would casually suggest he'd rather "kill himself than walk through Times Square?") Absolutely. But to provide such an example would be like trying to help someone locate their car keys

by whipping out a corkscrew and asking, "Will this do?") To ask a grieving person whether they knew suicide was imminent also risks making the very people you're trying to console feel accused, as if we ignored the briefing. As if we knew full well.

A few months ago, I spent an afternoon with a friend who had flown into town to visit her friend, who was dying of cancer. She asked if I had ever been around someone who had mere days to live. I said that no, I had not. But that's not quite true. I have been. I just didn't know it.

The crux of the issue is that "did you know?" and questions like it have little to do with the person who died or the person being asked and everything to do with the person doing the asking. Consciously or not, people want to reframe a terrible story for their own comfort. They want to scan their own relationships for abnormalities, to reassure themselves they aren't missing something. They are saddled with the one emotion the bereaved person no longer experiences: fear. For us, the worst has already happened. For everyone else? The abyss of the unknown.

Albert Camus wrote, "there is only one really serious philosophical problem, and that is suicide." But I do not have the answer to one of the world's most notorious conundrums. I'm sure my friend didn't either. Authority does not come free with proximity.

The reason I'm familiar with that quote is because I read Camus' "The Myth of Sisyphus" while working on a book about loss and what happened to my friend. In doing so, I have been faced with a whole new line of questions about his death and yet again find myself coming up short. Do I feel catharsis? Surely I must, having written a book on this subject. Must I?

By **SLOANE CROSLLEY**

Los Angeles Times

Sloane Crosley is a novelist and essayist. Her new book is Grief Is for People.



Recently, an early reader of the book stumped me when she asked: Did I consider not saying he died by suicide? I couldn't help but smile, as my friend surely would have had he been there to hear it. What alternative means might this woman have preferred? A falling piano?

She pressed on until I realized what she was really asking. She felt there was a stigma about suicide and that made her uncomfortable. She felt that by announcing the way my friend had died, I was not protecting him. But I believe she was asking me to cover up something fundamental about my friend: his last act of free will.

So what is the alternative to personal curiosity? To the knee-jerk response? Try to remember that the bereaved—especially if they were taken by surprise—have to bear the burden of their own ignorance for the rest of their natural lives. Therefore, give the grieving person a reprieve from the interrogation, the lion's share of which they will conduct themselves. Give them this for the same reason you would offer to do their dishes or run their errands: so they can get some rest.

Focus instead on what you did not know. There you will find the most generous condolences, the ones that can pierce through the veil of mourning. Say you wish you'd known the person who died. Say how extraordinary their lives must have been, how big their story. Say that we never really know what goes on behind the closed doors of someone's mind but that it's worth it to keep trying.

We miss the people we loved so much, and we have not stopped. I promise we'll thank you.

Suicide prevention and crisis counseling resources: If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, seek help from a professional and call 9-8-8. The United States' first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline 988 will connect callers with trained mental health counselors. Text "HOME" to 741741 in the U.S. and Canada to reach the Crisis Text Line.

3 seasons in 24 hours stump climate change deniers

Spring doesn't officially begin for more than three weeks, but it came early to Chicago this week, with temperatures hitting a pleasant 74 degrees Fahrenheit Tuesday afternoon. Spring then quickly turned to summer, with severe thunderstorms slamming the area Tuesday night, bringing hail and reported tornadoes. Then winter returned on Wednesday morning, skipping fall, as the mercury plunged into the 20s, with icy winds and snow flurries.

Just a totally normal 24 hours in February.

Actually, the weather around the world has been anything but normal this winter. More to the point, it has forced us to reconsider what "normal" even means anymore when global warming is making the climate increasingly chaotic.

"If the climate were changing more slowly, it would be harder to see," Berkeley Earth climate scientist Zeke Hausfather said. "But it's hard to ignore a 70-degree day in February."

The US is in the grips of a snow drought, with more ground bare of the white stuff in late February than in any other year since National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records beginning in 2004. Ski resorts are shutting down from Indiana to the Alps. Dogsled races have been canceled. Wisconsin golf courses opened early. Just 2.7% of the Great Lakes was covered in ice in mid-February, according to the NOAA, the lowest since records begin in 1973.

This January was the world's warmest since at least 1850, and this February is on track to follow suit, according to Hausfather. Global average sea surface temperature blew away the record for the hottest January ever and came close to being the hottest month ever, according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Hundreds of records fell across the US this week in a bizarre winter heat wave that elevated temperatures to 100F in Texas and 81F in St. Louis and sparked a handful of wildfires. Smoke from those fires gave New York City an unwelcome whiff of last summer's Canadian haze. That was swiftly followed by a whiplash-inducing temperature drop of 60F in some parts of the Midwest.

Some of this freakish weather is due to strong El Niño conditions in the Eastern Pacific, which tend to raise temperatures and wreak havoc around the world. Snow cover was also low in the US in 2016, the last strong El Niño winter.

But this El Niño comes in the context of a long-term heating trend. Average global surface temperatures have risen 1.2 degrees Celsius from preindustrial averages, thanks mainly to the greenhouse gases released by burning fossil fuels. El Niño

By **MARK GONGLOFF**

Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, the Huffington Post and the Wall Street Journal.



is giving that long-term trend a little extra kick.

It's tricky to ascribe any one weather event to global warming, but a massive heat wave in February has climate change's fingerprints all over it. The nonprofit research group Climate Central estimates it made Chicago's high temperature on Tuesday four times likelier.

This winter is also a taste of what's to come as temperatures keep rising. For example, this week's heat wave was due in part to the aforementioned lack of snow cover, which makes the ground hotter and drier. Add strong, dry winds from Mexico, and we got rising temperatures and wildfire risks. Future winter storms may be wetter and dump more snow all at once because warmer air holds more moisture. But a warmer climate could also mean fewer snowstorms in some places and in spring and fall, and snowpack tends to melt quickly in 70-degree weather.

Since 1970, winters have already warmed by 3.8F, on average, in 233 US cities studied by Climate Central. Winter is warming faster than other seasons, and colder parts of the country are warming faster than hotter ones.

All of this will spell a future of iffy snowfall and more torrential rainstorms, including the "atmospheric rivers" that have pounded California for much of this winter. If not managed properly, that could lead to longer wildfire seasons (Canada's has already begun) and less-reliable water supply for states that depend on snowmelt. There's also a theory that, by upsetting the jet stream, global warming might paradoxically make polar vortexes more frequent, bringing deadly cold to places that aren't used to it.

If there's a silver lining, a freaky February makes it much harder for skeptics to deny the reality of a changing climate. That could build support to hasten the changes needed to stop burning the fossil fuels that are warming the planet. While we wait for that, we'll need to prepare for the consequences of more wild winter weather to come.

MCCONNELL'S

From page 6

championed irresponsible tax hikes that again ballooned deficits and debt. And now, with Joe Biden in the big chair, McConnell has again assumed the role of fiscal mischief-maker, empowering those on the hard right who wanted to take the country to the brink.

The list goes on. McConnell insisted that the United States deliver military aid to Ukraine be yoked to immigration reforms—then, under pressure from Trump, folded like a T-shirt and voted to kill the deal. Other Republicans showed a modicum of courage. The leader buckled.

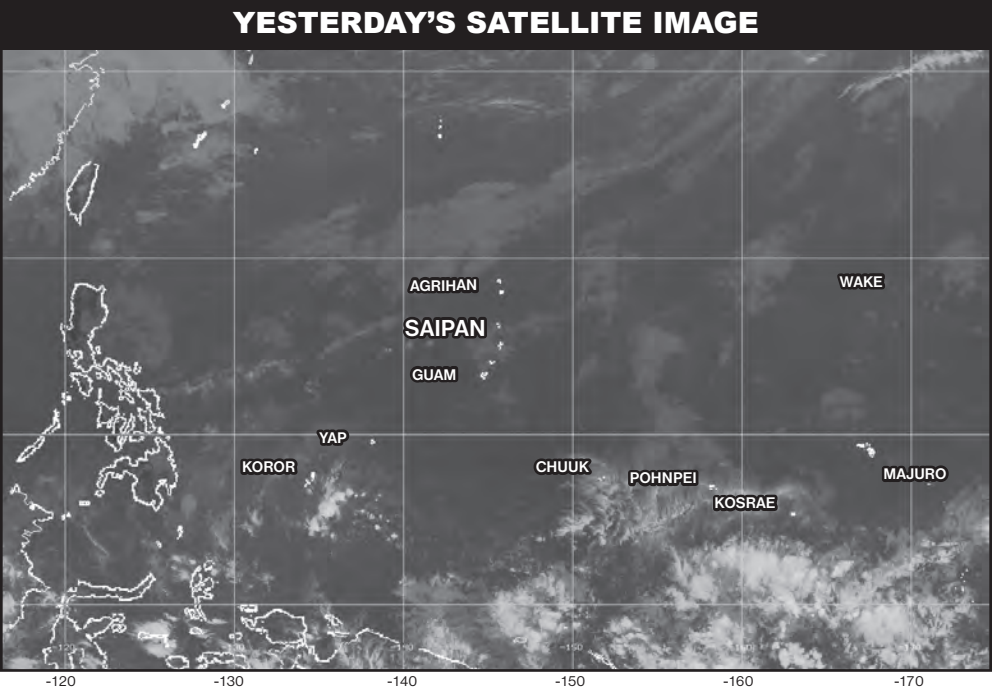
And though McConnell was a lead warrior against Obama nominees up and down the federal judiciary, he blindly pushed through judge after judge nominated by Trump, including many rated unqualified by the American Bar Association. The courts will live with the consequences of that brazen hypocrisy for generations.

That's not all. In the wake of a threat on Justice Brett Kavanaugh's life, McConnell demanded Democratic action on a bill stepping up security around Supreme Court justices' homes—but has had no answer other than more guns everywhere for school shootings that have torn at the nation's very soul.

Mitch McConnell will be remembered as a savvy tactician who, by skillfully manipulating the rules of the Senate, got the better of Democrats in many partisan battles. He will also be remembered as a man who, though claiming to put principle above all else, proved he had almost none.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
86	77°	86	76°	86	76°	86	76°	86	76°



PICTURE TIME: 5:10 AM MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light to gentle easterly surface winds are reported across the forecast zones this morning. Satellite shows scattered low to mid-level clouds nearby, and more cloudiness over the far northern CNMI. A shear line is far northwest of the CNMI and drifting slowly southward. Saipan/Tanapag buoy shows combined seas 5 to 6 feet from the north and northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 75°	
Yap	Sunny	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Sunny	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:45 AM	1:03 PM	-
Wednesday	2:45 AM	2:06 PM	-
Thursday	3:44 AM	3:11 PM	-
Friday	4:38 AM	4:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:28 AM	5:20 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Fair	49° / 23°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 61°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 69°	
London	Showers	55° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°	
Melbourne	Sunny	97° / 73°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 68°	
New York	Fair	66° / 47°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°	
Paris	Rain	61° / 46°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	56° / 37°	
Rome	Sunny	64° / 46°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	71° / 56°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	54° / 44°	
Seoul	Fair	49° / 24°	
Tokyo	Fair	57° / 40°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	65° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:56 AM	High Tide	1.48	
9:04 AM	Low Tide	1.31	
1:33 PM	High Tide	1.55	
9:47 PM	Low Tide	-0.19	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Coast Guard engages in key maritime activities on Saipan to enhance response, safety, security

Saipan partners hosted a series of critical engagements involving senior leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, highlighting the Coast Guard’s ongoing commitment to maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in the CNMI from Feb. 28 to March 1, 2024.

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia and the Captain of the Port for Guam and the Marianas, was joined by Cmdr. Ryan Crose, response department head; Lt. Henry Dunphy, emergency management and force readiness division chief; Jack Ary, port security specialist, and Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Dunning, a marine science technician, in a productive series of meetings, exercises, and assessments aimed at bolstering the CNMI’s maritime capabilities and readiness.

“The maritime transportation system and our ports are not just the backbone of our

economy; they are the lifeblood of our communities and a critical asset for our regional security,” said Simmons. “Ensuring their safety, security, stewardship, and efficiency is paramount, not just for the prosperity of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands but for the Pacific as a whole. Through steadfast collaboration and unwavering commitment, we will continue to safeguard these vital resources and waterways for future generations.”

Among the week’s activities were a Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercise at Mobil Saipan, meetings of the Area Maritime Security Committee and the Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan Committee, and visits to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Customs and Biosecurity offices.

The GIUE is a pivotal component of the U.S. Coast Guard’s strategy to ensure preparedness for environmen-

tal emergencies, sharing best practices, and identifying areas for improvement. These exercises are designed to evaluate emergency response procedures to simulated maritime incidents, such as oil spills, which are critical for enhancing the effectiveness of incident management and response efforts. The primary goal of a GIUE is to ensure that the plan holder can effectively implement their response plan during a marine environmental response scenario. The program builds on the successes of previous GIUEs conducted on Rota and Tinian in February 2023.

“The GIUE was a testament to this spirit of cooperation. It served as a forward-looking exercise that brought to light invaluable lessons, reinforcing the need for timely notification of our Oil Spill Response Organizations and the critical examination of our response equipment’s condition,” said Lt. Justin Miller, supervisor

of Marine Safety Detachment Saipan. “The incidents of equipment failure, such as the boom rope breaking, underscore the importance of rigorous checks for wear and potential degradation. As we reflect on these lessons, the prospect of conducting another GIUE in the future is likely and supports our continuous improvement and preparedness efforts. This iterative process of learning and adaptation ensures that our collective response to environmental emergencies is effective and resilient.”

In addition to the GIUE, the week’s engagements facilitated in-depth discussions on pollution prevention and response as well as maritime security and safety strategies, reinforcing the collaborative framework between the Coast Guard, CNMI authorities, and maritime industry stakeholders. The AMSC and MIACP Committee meetings provided platforms for dialogue on enhancing maritime domain awareness,

emergency response, and operational coordination.

Internal training efforts by Chief Petty Officer Rod Bawar and others saw increased capabilities among our Saipan-based team and represent a significant investment in building local capacity and expertise, ensuring personnel in CNMI are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for maintaining high standards of maritime safety and security efforts to strengthen oversight and investigative capabilities within the CNMI’s maritime sector. This achievement and ongoing investigation underscores the Coast Guard’s dedication to upholding the highest maritime governance and accountability standards.

“Our day-to-day collaborations and partnerships among CNMI port partners form the cornerstone of our maritime safety and security efforts. Together, we’ve built a robust network that responds to challenges and anticipates

them, ensuring the integrity and efficiency of our maritime operations,” said Miller. “In the face of Typhoon Mawar, Saipan’s readiness and resilience were tested, demonstrating our community’s strength and preparedness. As Guam came back online, the collective support and solidarity between our islands underscored the unbreakable bond we share, ensuring that together, we can weather any challenge and emerge stronger.”

The involvement of the Captain of the Port and Coast Guard staff in these activities is essential for fostering a secure, safe, and resilient maritime environment in the Marianas. Through collaboration, exercises, and rigorous assessments, the U.S. Coast Guard remains steadfast in protecting the maritime interests of the CNMI, Guam, and the United States, ensuring the well-being of our marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. *(USCG)*

Mount Carmel School’s Q2 Presidents List and Honor Roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the second quarter of school year 2023-2024 President’s List and Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT’S LIST
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

- 1st Grade**
- Averyrose Malia B. Allen
 - Caitlyn Mae A. Matsunaga
 - Emberlee Shae S. Westbrook
 - Erin Rousce P. De Belen
 - Jaxon Bryce P. Camacho
 - Matteo John P. Rizo
 - Nasisa Olivia K. Demapan
 - Renzo Gavriel R. David
 - Stieven Zane A. Dimafelix
 - Thomas Flores
 - Tsuyoshiro Aries K. Tuti
 - Yzzabella F. Vergel de Dios
 - Zun H. Wang

- 2nd Grade**
- Alexandra Victoria Stuart
 - Avalyn Mae N. Lizama
 - Bentley Ellaine C. Santos
 - Chloe Jodia B. Mostales
 - Dylan Jon C. Pangelinan
 - Francine Jaymee O. Pineda
 - Grayson Eunu Jo
 - Isaiah Francisco P. Villagomez
 - Joevani Dre T. Cruz
 - Landon Jay C. Pangelinan
 - Liv Mariana R. Tajeron
 - Logan Jesus D. Tenorio
 - Rhianna Kay G. Kautz

- 3rd Grade**
- Arielle Jane G. Aniciete
 - Aubrey Nicole A. Matsunaga
 - Benz Elliott C. Santos
 - Brayden Kane P. Taguchi
 - Eduardo Vicente D. Diaz II
 - Farrell Huan C. Dela Santa
 - Ines F. Maratita
 - Jeremy Sho B. Sasamoto
 - Jesse Joseph Gregory J. Palacios
 - Ji Yoo K. Lee
 - Juliana Riley H. Apelo
 - Leilani Soledad N. Castro
 - Miriam Grace Flores
 - Mya Joy C. Manibusan

- Rockson R. Cabrera
- Sumai Francine B. Castro
- Vincent C. Salavaria

- 4th Grade**
- Aiesha Sadie H. Camacho
 - Aleaya T. Bermudes
 - Ava Monae C. Basa
 - Aycee Rianne T. Quitugua
 - Denise Kamille W. Iglesias
 - Ezekiel Ma’nu’i P. Villagomez
 - Gabriella Jo C. Tenorio
 - Isaiah Preston Paul
 - Jace S. Pangelinan
 - Khoen Alexander C. Torres
 - Maverick L. Yamanaka
 - Rei Ezekiel P. De Belen
 - Scott Jonathan Y. Muna
 - Youngwoo (Stella) Choi

- 5th Grade**
- Aiyana Carmen B. Pangelinan
 - Friella Huanne C. Dela Santa
 - Jonathan L. Zhang
 - Kirk Ivan E. De Perio
 - Logan Kane M. Propst
 - Seungmin Jang

- 6th Grade**
- Chloe Anne Marie A. Matsunaga
 - Jeongwoo (Ryan) Choi
 - Jiwoo Lee
 - Lilliana Terie A. Villagomez
 - Miana Dolores B. Delacruz

- 7th Grade**
- Brielle V. Malonzo
 - Gonshiro Pedro Jose S. Sasamoto
 - Jaze Enzo P. San Nicolas
 - O-Ren Fumiyo D. Sasamoto

- 8th Grade**
- Alexia Aulene M. Rubia
 - Aubrey Rae T. Quitugua
 - Avania Clarise E. Quichocho
 - Cecilia R. Villagomez
 - David John Romaldo S. Apatang
 - Do Geon Kim
 - Heather Elizabeth Pain A. Sin
 - Isabella Soledad G. Demapan
 - Jadine Nicole P. Pangelinan
 - Jener Franz O. Pineda
 - Jessie Chen
 - Ju Hwan S. Hyun
 - Julius Y. Sheu

- Katherine Hwang
- Kayla Rose Larson
- Layla Carmen Ann J. Palacios
- Remiegem B. Melchor
- Siwoo Lee
- Victor Neil M. Santos

- 9th Grade**
- Ana Guadalupe M. Villagomez
 - Christopher James N. Dela Cruz
 - Hope Gianna McQuay
 - Jose Clarence S. Tenorio
 - Josephine L. Lopez
 - Nicole Angela S. Pangilinan
 - Sage R. Villagomez

- 10th Grade**
- Arwen Hannah N. Bartolata
 - Camron Xavier S. Pangelinan
 - Chae Eun Kim
 - Edsel Benedict A. Pagtalanun
 - Emmanuel C. Pontiveros
 - Gavril Myles Santiago
 - Heleyna Frielle C. Dela Santa
 - Jessiana B. Tenorio
 - Jieun Kwon
 - Joseph Brandon R. Pangelinan
 - Leonard Jake B. Regalado
 - Mya D. Pangelinan
 - Nyla N. Deleon Guerrero
 - Oscar Bien R. Buenafior
 - Patricia Denielle G. Lugtu
 - Quince Emanuele O. Tizon
 - Seunghee (Sunny) Jeon
 - Therese Joy O. Ogo
 - Victor Nash M. Santos
 - William Matthew B. Cano
 - Zion Jude C. Cabrera

- 11th Grade**
- Alvin Hong
 - Ari James Toskas
 - Chealzka M. Navarro
 - Claire Regina G. Kautz
 - Irie Kane H. Camacho
 - Jada B. Chang
 - Jae Yun Jung
 - Jay Francis Dominic O. Pineda
 - Jeewoo Son
 - Jung Hyun Cho
 - Maili B. Peter
 - Malina Rose B. Tenorio
 - Rafael Mykel Gozon
 - Seungeun Ha
 - Sihyeon Choi
 - Tricia Antonnette J. Palacios

- Yunseong Seol
- 12th Grade**
- Avah Marie C. Torres
 - Bernice Shane Q. Sabino
 - Brandon Byung Hoon Lee
 - Breanna Sue L. Mafnas
 - Charles Pablo S. Cepeda
 - Devin Jordan M. Propst
 - Earle Gabreil L. San Nicolas
 - Elisa Ellen E. Blanco
 - Eunkyu Hong
 - Gwen Tiffany D. Gamab
 - Irish Leilani Castro
 - Jan Marini P. Millo
 - Jerry Chen
 - Jhazmyn Nhicole C. Valiente
 - Juliana T. Vergara
 - Kriselle Bryana Mitzy A. Drilon
 - Krissy Rease F. Cepeda
 - Leyonne Alfred F. Tolentino
 - Maria Yoshie C. Torres
 - Minki Jung
 - Natalie Gabrielle E. Ano
 - Palikkun S. George
 - Paul Angelo Santos
 - Paul William D. Camacho
 - Raymana Owen D. Salas
 - Ruben Antonio C. Guerrero
 - Sanghyeok Lee
 - Tyana Kisha T. Tesiro
 - Xin Wen Jin

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

- 1st Grade**
- Adam Lee T. Wesley
 - Callem Grei S. Torres
 - Carlos B. Deleon Guerrero
 - Cole H. Pangelinan
 - Coral Jade S. Aldan
 - Ethan D. Brown
 - Kenneth Grey C. McDonald
 - Lauren Reyshell A. Gray
 - Mikael Zhukovskii
 - Riacca Manahane

- 2nd Grade**
- Ethan Robert F. Dasalla
 - Liam Tasi S. Ehsa
 - Yanbin (Jacob) Cui
 - Zhane Graeson V. Jugos

- 3rd Grade**
- Ariah Kady N. Deleon Guerrero
 - Carlie W. Bai

- Dongmin Jang
- Gabriella Salome D. Gamab
- Yanchen (Henry) Cui
- 4th Grade**
- Allen Gil
 - Chloe Nicole Arnold
 - Felix Ryan N. Tomokane
 - Gino Marvin T. Deleon Guerrero
 - Jamara Jayde C. Cabrera-Sablan
 - Lucas Chenrui Wu
 - Yuna Yu

- 5th Grade**
- Alana Lei C. Macaranas
 - Aliyani M. Basa
 - Chloe-Mae Therese T. Taimanao
 - Christian T. Igisomar
 - Clarise Faith C. Garamonte
 - Erika Loreen T. Cuyugan
 - Ian James B. De Leon
 - Jacob Asher N. Villacrusis
 - Jake Peter C. Deleon Guerrero Jr.
 - Joseph Francisco D. White
 - Kendra Elise P. Camacho
 - Mateo Moctezuma A. Almada
 - Neia Dolana Noreyemal D. Tagabuel
 - Sera Y. Guerrero
 - Soli F. Maratita

- 6th Grade**
- Althea Dionn B. Lauron
 - Ava Carmina B. Sablan
 - Ezaela Patrice M. Camacho
 - Karl Angelo M. Diaz
 - Kathleen B. Cano
 - Kennani Vinae C. Villagomez
 - Ki Eun K. Lee
 - Lily Chantrea R. Lim
 - Lydia J. Xian
 - Paige Kanae Y. Muna
 - Ye Lei (Bruce) Song

- 7th Grade**
- Caleb John S. Aldan
 - Trisha Juliana D. Abuan
 - Maria Y. Guerrero
 - Caydince Raine M. Masga
 - Franklin Huang
 - James E. Matsumoto
 - Joey Claude B. Mostales
 - Kainoa B. Tenorio
 - Kazzandra Arielle A. Drilon
 - Logan C. Matsumoto
 - Mia Remae Guerrero
 - Raymond Earl Hazlett
 - Russell Ethan P. De Belen
 - Xin Lei (Steven) Song

- 8th Grade**
- Anjoelena Rose S. Villagomez
 - Arthur Angel O. Deliva
 - Cassidee Jolina C. Flores
 - Ciana Lei B. Demapan
 - Cyril Michael S. Pangilinan
 - Dylan Jacob O. Camacho
 - Francisco F. Maratita
 - Gabriella Aundrea B. Inos
 - John Matthew L. Ellama
 - Kingston T. Deleon Guerrero
 - Krishna M. Devjani
 - Mary Shelley C. Deleon Guerrero

- 9th Grade**
- Akoni Jesus C. Matsumoto
 - Bernard Sean Q. Sabino
 - Carly Kate P. Dela Cruz
 - Christine Rosanne N. Castro
 - Jeein Lee
 - Jeffrey G. Concepcion
 - Jupri O. Torres
 - Kaden Christian M. Propst
 - Maya Elaine McQuay
 - Rafael Elijah P. De Belen
 - Sarah Angela B. Melchor
 - Stephanie Joyce C. Sevilla

- 10th Grade**
- Alexandria Ysabelle Dysangco
 - Annieskha F. Arreza
 - Anthony Christian E. Rivera
 - Ayung Lee
 - Brandon Joseph T. Tesiro
 - Jaclyn Rose Davis
 - Lance Jericho A. Javier
 - Luis C. Manibusan
 - Mikaehla Paige R. Mendoza

- 11th Grade**
- Aryana Carmen A. Taimanao
 - Breana Ysabel A. Patawaran
 - Carlos Joe C. Deleon Guerrero
 - Chelsy Anne P. Reyes
 - Earl Pete Jacob M. Lacandazo
 - Laizza Vianca A. Mallari
 - Mia Ysabela D. Abuan
 - MinJun Ha
 - Vayden I. Matagolai

- 12th Grade**
- Ashley Jo A. Sablan
 - Jared Joshua G. Terlaje
 - Kevin Jia Qi Bao
 - L’Wina D. Atalig
 - Leo Bang
 - Luke G. Ubilas
 - Miguel Nathan N. Bartolata
 - Sarawut Sukanpong
 - Xiang Jun Zeng *(PR)*

CNMI SBDC Network launches official website

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is excited to announce the official launch of its new website starting last Friday, March 1, 2024. This milestone marks a significant step in the SBDC's ongoing commitment to providing equitable access to its diverse range of programs and services dedicated to supporting and elevating small businesses in the CNMI.

The newly unveiled website serves as a comprehensive hub, offering visitors the latest information on executed and anticipated events, as well as outreach initiatives by the SBDC. This user-friendly platform is designed to foster

engagement and interaction, providing a seamless experience for those seeking resources and support for their small businesses.

TurnKey Solutions, a leading digital marketing agency in the CNMI, played a pivotal

» In collaboration with TurnKey Solutions

role in the development of the SBDC website. Their commitment to excellence and passion for supporting local businesses aligns seamlessly with SBDC's mission to empower the small business community.

Key features of the web-

site include:

- Programs and services overview: Learn more about the various programs and services offered by SBDC to assist small businesses in the CNMI, including workshops, counseling, and resources tailored to meet their unique needs.

- Events calendar: Stay informed about upcoming events, workshops, and outreach programs organized and sponsored by SBDC. The calendar will be regularly updated to ensure that visitors have access to the latest information on opportunities for networking and skill development.

- Meet our team: Get ac-

quainted with the experienced business advisors who form the backbone of SBDC. Learn about their expertise and commitment to supporting the local small business community.

- About us: Gain insights into the SBDC team and its host institution, the Northern Marianas College. Discover the collaborative efforts driving the success of small businesses in the CNMI.

- Client sign-up: Aspiring and experienced business owners can easily sign up to become an SBDC client directly through the website. This streamlined process enables entrepreneurs to access no-cost training and services

tailored to their specific business needs.

- User-centric design: TurnKey Solutions worked closely with SBDC to create a user-friendly and visually appealing website. The design reflects the SBDC's commitment to accessibility, making it easier for visitors to navigate and find the information they need.

- Optimized online presence: Leveraging TurnKey Solutions' expertise in digital marketing, the website is strategically optimized to enhance SBDC's online visibility. This ensures that small businesses, entrepreneurs and stakeholders can easily discover and

access the valuable resources and services offered by SBDC.

- Interactive features: TurnKey Solutions integrated interactive features that engage visitors and foster a sense of community. The website serves as a dynamic platform for communication, allowing SBDC to connect with its audience through events, workshops, and outreach programs.

- Mobile responsiveness: Recognizing the importance of mobile accessibility, TurnKey Solutions ensured that the website is fully responsive across various devices. This ensures that users can access information and services on the go, further expanding SBDC's reach.

Speaking about the launch, Roman Tudela, marketing manager/outreach specialist of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, expressed excitement about the enhanced accessibility the website brings to the community.

"We are thrilled to introduce our official website as a central hub for the CNMI small business community. This platform is a testament to our commitment to providing easy access to the invaluable resources and services we offer. Whether you are a seasoned entrepreneur or just starting, the website serves as a gateway to a wealth of opportunities for growth and success. Our collaboration with TurnKey Solutions has been instrumental in bringing our vision to life. Their expertise in digital marketing and commitment to supporting local businesses align perfectly with SBDC's mission. The new website is a testament to the power of collaboration, and we believe it will serve as a valuable resource for the CNMI small business community."

Visit the new CNMI Small Business Development Center Network website at www.cnmisbdc.com and explore the myriad ways in which SBDC is empowering small businesses across the Commonwealth.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and NMC. (PR)

Radewagen highlights A. Samoa's wildlife habitat in Capitol press conference

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) took part in a Capitol press conference on Thursday in the House Radio and TV Correspondents Gallery to highlight American Samoa's wildlife and natural habitat as part of the rollout of America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act.

"I represent beautiful islands in the South Pacific, and much of our wildlife is unique in terms of U.S. native wildlife," said Radewagen in the press event. "Our land is covered with tropical rainforests teeming with life and rugged mountainous coastlines, and coral reefs. We have abundant small wildlife, lovely birds, large coconut crabs, and in our waters, everything from whales to microscopic life. We value all of them."

The bill is sponsored by Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) with Radewagen, who serves on the Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Subcommittee, and several other members as original cosponsors, including chair Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) of the bipartisan Congressional Western Caucus, on which



Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) during last Thursday's House Radio and TV Correspondents Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Dan Newhouse also serves as a vice chairman.

"One animal has become somewhat symbolic of American Samoa in art and culture. Our 'flying fox'—a large fruit bat—was chosen for our National Park of American Samoa quarter by the U.S. Mint. It is a vital part of our rainforest ecology. We have sea bird habitat, such as our steep uninhabited Pola Island at Vai'ava Straight Natural Landmark. We have many land snails, sisi vao, ranging from common to rare,

some found only in the Samoan islands, that leave behind shells—like these on this handmade Samoan *ula*," she continued, showing the audience her *ula* of snail and seashells.

She concluded, "Thank you to chairman Westerman for this good bill. I'm delighted to support it. Our people and our National Park would make any of you very welcome if you ever are in the South Pacific to see our wonderful wildlife. Thank you. *Soifua ma ia manuia.*"

The AWHCA will invest \$320 million annually in grant funding to states and territories for wildlife habitat conservation, providing additional resources for governments to enact their congressionally mandated state wildlife action plans. Specifically, the bill would fund habitat restoration and management projects, and promote collaboration with private partners to conserve habitat for at-risk and listed species.

The AWHCA would also empower state and territory

governments by giving them the opportunity to develop recovery strategies for species that are listed as threatened or are candidates to be listed.

These recovery strategies give them an active role in developing regulations for threatened and candidate species.

Westerman said, "The America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act will empower states and local communities to use proven practices to restore and maintain habitat, which will benefit species in their state's wildlife action plans. Good habitat management is integral to wildlife management and without it, species have little chance of maintaining sustainable populations and surviving. By strengthening relationships between states, tribes, private landowners and the federal government, we can empower them to implement proactive habitat conservation that will make a difference where it counts: on the ground across our abundant outdoors." (PR)



Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) said her island is covered with tropical rainforests teeming with life and rugged mountainous coastlines, and coral reefs.



Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) highlighted American Samoa's wildlife.

World

Rival of Netanyahu visits US, signaling wider cracks in wartime leadership

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rebuked a top Cabinet minister arriving in Washington on Sunday for talks with U.S. officials, according to an Israeli official, signaling widening cracks within the country's leadership nearly five months into its war with Hamas.

The trip by Benny Gantz, a centrist political rival who joined Netanyahu's wartime Cabinet following Hamas'

Oct. 7 attack, comes as friction between the U.S. and Netanyahu is rising over how to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and what the postwar plan for the enclave should look like.

An official from Netanyahu's far-right Likud party said Gantz's trip was planned without authorization from the Israeli leader. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Netanyahu had a "tough talk" with Gantz and

told him the country has "just one prime minister."

Gantz is scheduled to meet on Monday with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and national security adviser Jake Sullivan and on Tuesday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to his National Unity Party. A second Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity said Gantz's visit is intended to strengthen ties with the U.S., bolster support for Israel's war and push for the release of Israeli hostages.

In Egypt, talks were underway to broker a cease-fire before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins next week.

Israel did not send a delegation because it is waiting for answers from Hamas on two questions, according to a third Israeli government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Israeli media reported that the government is waiting to learn which hostages are alive and how many Palestinian prisoners Hamas seeks in exchange for each.

All three Israeli officials spoke anonymously because they weren't authorized to discuss the disputes

with the media.

The U.S. began airdrops of aid into Gaza on Saturday, after dozens of Palestinians rushing to grab food from an Israel-organized convoy were killed last week. The airdrops circumvented an aid delivery system hobbled by Israeli restrictions, logistical issues and fighting in Gaza. Aid officials say airdrops are far less effective than deliveries by truck.

U.S. priorities in the region have increasingly been hampered by Netanyahu's Cabinet, which is dominated by ultranationalists. Gantz's more moderate party at times acts as a counterweight.

Netanyahu's popularity has dropped since the war broke out, according to most opinion polls. Many Israelis hold him responsible for failing to stop the Oct. 7 cross-border raid by Hamas, which killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took roughly 250 people as hostages into Gaza, including women, children and older adults, according to Israeli authorities.

More than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, around two-thirds of them women and

children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and fighters. Around 80% of the population of 2.3 million have fled their homes, and U.N. agencies say hundreds of thousands are on the brink of famine.

Israelis critical of Netanyahu say his decision-making has been tainted by political considerations, a charge he denies. The criticism is particularly focused on plans for post-war Gaza. Netanyahu wants Israel to maintain open-ended security control over Gaza, with Palestinians running civilian affairs.

The U.S. wants to see progress on the creation of a Palestinian state, envisioning a revamped Palestinian leadership running Gaza with an eye toward eventual statehood.

That vision is opposed by Netanyahu and the hard-liners in his government. Another top Cabinet official from Gantz's party has questioned the handling of the war and the strategy for freeing the hostages.

Netanyahu's government, Israel's most conservative and religious ever, has also been rattled by a court-ordered

deadline for a new bill to broaden military enlistment of ultra-Orthodox Jews. Many of them are exempted from military service so they can pursue religious studies. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers have been killed since Oct. 7, and the military is looking to fill its ranks.

Gantz has remained vague about his view of Palestinian statehood. Polls show he would earn enough support to become prime minister if a vote were held today.

A visit to the U.S., if met with progress on the hostage front, could further boost Gantz's support.

Israel and Hamas are negotiating over a possible new cease-fire and hostage release deal. Vice President Harris said on Sunday it is now up to Hamas to agree to it. "Given the immense scale of suffering in Gaza, there must be an immediate cease-fire for at least the next six weeks, which is what is currently on the table," Harris said.

Israelis, deeply traumatized by Hamas' attack, have broadly backed the war effort as an act of self-defense, even as global opposition to the fighting has increased.

WORLD BRIEFS

S. Korea takes steps to suspend licenses of striking doctors after they refuse to end walkouts

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's government began steps Monday to suspend the medical licenses of thousands of striking junior doctors, days after they missed a government-set deadline to end their joint walkouts, which have severely impacted hospital operations. Nearly 9,000 medical interns and residents have been on strike for two weeks to protest a government push to sharply increase the number of medical school admissions. Their action has led to hundreds of canceled surgeries and other treatments and threatened to burden the country's medical service. On Monday, officials were sent to dozens of hospitals to formally confirm the absence of the striking doctors as the government began steps to suspend their licenses for at least three months, Vice Health Minister Park Min-soo told a briefing. Park said authorities will later notify the striking doctors of their expected license suspensions and give them a chance to respond. He suggested the license suspensions would take weeks to go into effect. "Despite repeated appeals by the government and other parts of society, the number of trainee doctors returning to work is very insignificant. Starting from today, we begin the execution of law with the on-site inspection," Park said.

A woman clutching infant found in rubble of Ukraine building after Russian drone strike

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Western allies to boost Ukraine's air defenses after a Russian drone strike destroyed an apartment block in the southern port city of Odesa and killed at least 11 people. Officials on Sunday said the bodies of a boy—and a young woman clutching an infant—were pulled from Saturday's rubble. "The mother tried to cover the 8-month-old child with her own (body). She tried

to save them. They were found in a firm embrace," said a Telegram post published on the interior ministry's official channel. Separately, the governor of the Odesa region, Oleh Kiper, said the other child was 10. On Saturday, Ukrainian authorities said another baby was among those killed after falling debris from an Iranian-made drone hit the building—one of eight Russian drones reported by officials. Later that day, Zelenskyy said a second child aged 2 had also died. "Delays in the delivery of weapons to Ukraine, as well as air defense to protect our people, unfortunately result in such losses," Zelenskyy wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. More people may still be trapped, the Odesa branch of Ukraine's main emergency service said on Facebook. Kiper said rescue workers continued to comb through the site.

A ship earlier hit by Yemen's Houthi rebels sinks in Red Sea, first vessel lost in conflict

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels has sunk in the Red Sea after days of taking on water, officials said Saturday, the first vessel to be fully destroyed as part of their campaign over Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The sinking of the Rubymar, which carried a cargo of fertilizer and previously leaked fuel, could cause ecological damage to the Red Sea and its coral reefs. Persistent Houthi attacks have already disrupted traffic in the crucial waterway for cargo and energy shipments moving from Asia and the Middle East to Europe. Already, many ships have turned away from the route. The sinking could see further detours and higher insurance rates put on vessels plying the waterway—potentially driving up global inflation and affecting aid shipments to the region. The Belize-flagged Rubymar had been drifting northward after being struck by a Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile on Feb. 18 in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial waterway linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

‘Dune: Part Two’ brings spice power to the box office with \$81.5 million debut

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

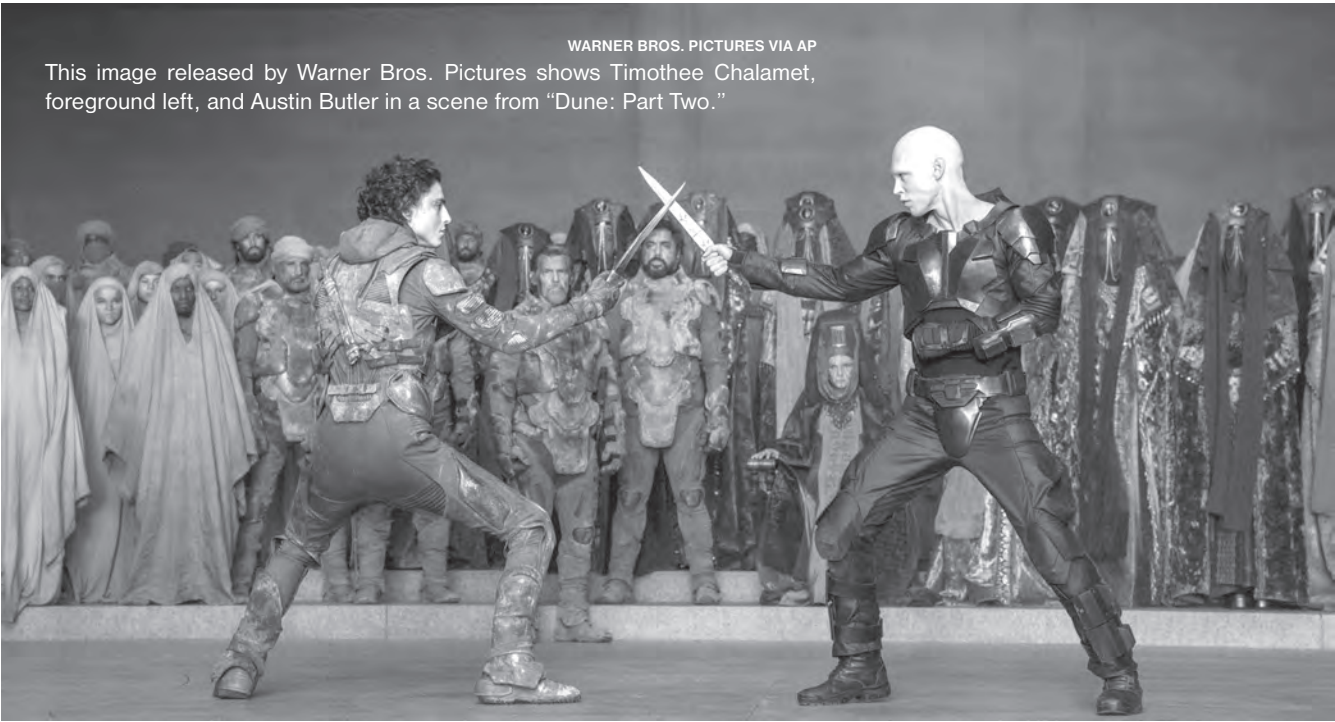
Movie theaters were looking for a savior and “Dune: Part Two” is delivering on the promise. Armed with sandworms, big screen spectacle and the star power of Timothée Chalamet, Denis Villeneuve’s science fiction epic stormed the North American box office this weekend earning \$81.5 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Internationally, it earned \$97 million, bringing its global debut to \$178.5 million.

“Denis made a really extraordinary and special film and it’s been really exciting to see people respond,” said Mary Parent, a producer on both “Dune” films and chairman of worldwide production at Legendary. “It was made for the big screen and it feels like it’s being received as a cinematic event.”

It’s the first major hit of 2024, and one that was sorely needed by exhibitors. Although there have been holdovers from December that have continued to earn, like Warner Bros.’ “Wonka” (also starring Chalamet) and Sony’s romantic comedy “Anyone But You,” the box office is in a bit of a drought. In the first two months of 2024, no films have crossed \$100 million domestically. The highest earning movies have been “The Beekeeper,” “Bob Marley: One Love” and “Mean Girls.”

“Dune 2” rode a wave of great reviews (94% on Rotten Tomatoes) into a marketplace that was essentially free of competition. Warner Bros. released it in 4,071 locations in the U.S. and Canada, where audiences across the board gave it the



WARNER BROS. PICTURES VIA AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Timothée Chalamet, foreground left, and Austin Butler in a scene from “Dune: Part Two.”

highest PostTrak marks and an A CinemaScore. According to exit data, men accounted for 59% of opening weekend ticket buyers and 64% were over the age of 25. The sequel was primarily financed by Legendary and its production budget, previously reported to be in the \$122 million range, is closer to \$190 million.

“It really captured the marketplace,” said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution. “It’s a cultural moment globally.”

Premium large format screens like IMAX and 70mm accounted for 48% of the opening weekend business. It marked a March record for IMAX, which made up \$18.5 million of the overall take. Villeneuve filmed the movie using IMAX cameras. Unlike “Oppenheimer,” it was shot on digital, but with the extra time

with the strike delay they were able to make film prints as well and the film format is proving a popular draw for audiences.

“Our most iconic film locations are virtually sold out for weeks,” said IMAX CEO Rich Gelfond.

The \$81.5 million debut is also a record for its director Villeneuve, and stars Chalamet, Austin Butler and Rebecca Ferguson.

Originally planned for an

October 2023 release, Warner Bros. bumped the movie to March amid the Hollywood strikes that would have prevented its starry cast from doing the promotional circuit. The global promo tour has been on hyperdrive for about a month, driving conversations with buzzy interviews, the viral sandworm-inspired popcorn bucket and eye-popping fashion moments from the stylish young cast – peaking with Zendaya’s silver cyborg

showstopper (vintage Mugler) in London. They’ve made stops in Mexico City, South Korea, Abu Dhabi and New York City.

“We worked very hard to be ready for that (original) date but we very much felt that, especially with this incredible cast, that it was worth waiting for,” Parent said.

Goldstein added that there was “a lot of debate” over whether or not to release it during the strikes but they knew that they needed the cast to “fully realize the movie.”

“You don’t make movie stars any place other than theaters,” Goldstein said. “Cinemas, on the big screen with the big sound and that shared experience makes a big star, or show the talent of a big star anyway.”

The first “Dune” opened under complicated conditions in October 2021. It was one of the last films of Warner Bros.’

divisive plan to simultaneously debut its major movies in theaters and on its streaming platform. And yet it still earned over \$40 million in its first weekend and went on to gross over \$400 million worldwide.

“Denis Villeneuve is up there with Christopher Nolan as a filmmaker whose name alone inspires people to go to the movie theater,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

This weekend, he added, “moves the needle in a big way.”

Going into the weekend the box office was down about 20% from the same point last year (when “Avatar: The Way of Water,” a 2022 release, was lifting everything). The closest equivalent this year is “Wonka,” still a hit, but not as big as “Avatar 2.” After the “Dune” weekend, the deficit will be closer to 13%.

“It shows how important one movie can be to the overall health of the industry,” Dergarabedian said. “But this is not a one-hit wonder for March. It’s a momentum business. Now we’re going to get the wind back in the sails as we head further into March, April and the summer movie season.”

Warner Bros. is one of those studios that will be back in short order with another big film, in “Godzilla x Kong” at the end of March, followed by “Furiosa” in May, the “Beetlejuice” sequel in September and the “Joker” sequel in October.

“This is our year,” Goldstein said. “Exhibitors are fighting for their lives but we can be clever and collaborative with them to keep our business relevant to audiences.”

- “Dune: Part Two,” \$81.5 million.
- “Bob Marley: One Love,” \$7.4 million.
- “Ordinary Angels,” \$3.9 million.
- “Madame Web,” \$3.2 million.
- “The Chosen: Season 4, Episodes 7-8,” \$3.2 million.
- “Migration,” \$2.5 million.
- “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba – To the Hashi,” \$2.1 million.
- “Wonka,” \$1.7 million.
- “Argylle,” \$1.4 million.
- “The Beekeeper,” \$1.1 million.

Woman’s failing health is wearing down family

DEAR ABBY: My husband speaks to his mom every morning. For the past couple of months, her health has been failing, and she spends most of her days in the hospital having an extremely tough time. Hearing his mom suffer daily is affecting my husband’s mental health. It sets the tone for the whole day, and I spend my mornings trying to cheer him up.

How do I tell him these daily conversations with his mom are starting to affect my mornings? Even the dog has begun showing signs of depression. Would I be selfish to suggest he needs to talk to her at a different time or maybe on fewer days?

BYSTANDER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BYSTANDER: Your husband may not have much longer to talk with his very ill mother, so I don’t recommend you approach the subject that way. What I do suggest is that you tell your husband how much you love him, and that you can see and feel his distress over her condition. Then suggest he talk with a mental health professional who can help him work this through, because you can see how much pain this is causing him. Then cross your fingers and hope he will realize how much he needs it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this in the hope that the man of my dreams reads it. I don’t know how to approach him. He’s getting

ready to retire, and I have fallen deeply in love with him as the years have gone by.

He’s a little on the chubby side (as am I), but his personality has always amused me. Sometimes he poses “sexy” as a joke and will often show his bellybutton. I find him staring at me out of the corner of his eye most days. Please help before it’s too late. I’m running out of time.

HIS DREAM GUY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR DREAM GUY: You stated that your dream man is getting ready to retire. I can’t think of a better reason for a celebration. Suggest the two of you go out for a drink or dinner after work “so you can toast his upcoming retirement.” Then cross your fingers that he agrees. It could be the start of something beautiful.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband suffered a stroke eight years ago. Everyone thinks he’s fine physically and mentally, except those closest to him. We know his brain doesn’t function the same. Example: When he went to fill out a job application, he asked me whose name should be put in the applicant field.

He occasionally had a short temper, but in recent months, he has grown verbally abusive to the point that I’m considering divorcing him. Anything can set him off, and there is no correct reaction from me. I am going to seek counseling. Any other advice for me?

READY TO LEAVE IN DELAWARE

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR READY: I do have one other bit of advice. You stated that “everyone” thinks your husband is fine physically and mentally. Are you including his doctors in that statement? Forgetting to put one’s own name on a job application and having a recent personality change could be signs of dementia. You should let them know you are worried so he can be evaluated.

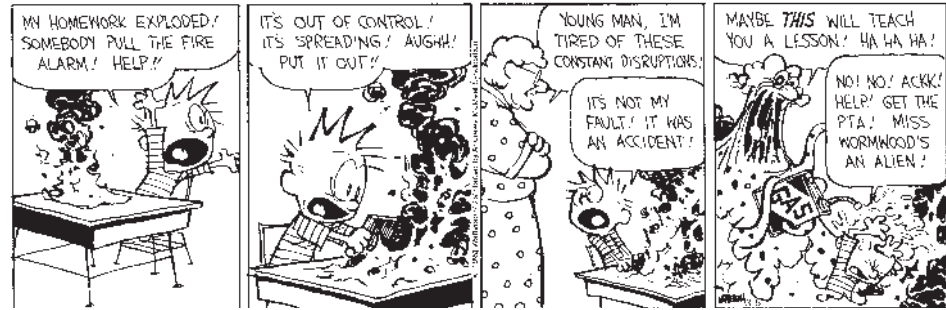
■ ■ ■

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 50%
5 German river
8 Fore-head
12 Nullify
13 Fan's cry
14 Quotable
15 Sledding locale
17 Survey
18 Author
19 Me-andered
21 Nome
24 Hotshots
25 Union
26 Carnival attraction
30 Superlative suffix
31 Winning
32 Notable time
33 Final contest
35 Vague
36 Jug handles
37 Goose eggs

DOWN

3 "Bad" cholesterol
4 Page numbers
5 Sports-caster
6 Irrate
7 Actress
8 Circum-vent
9 Leeway
10 Leer at
11 Untamed
16 — Paulo, Brazil
20 Pundit's piece
21 "The — of March"
22 Spew forth
23 "Fight Club" actor
24 Vantage points
26 Re-inforced
27 Get wind of
28 Rice-shaped pasta
29 Methods
31 Eve's guy
34 Me-andered
35 Donkey's bray
37 Buddhist sect
38 Pickle holders
39 "Alternately," in a text
40 "— Rock"
41 Ninny
44 Miner's quest
45 Rage
46 Freedom, for short
47 Part of UNLV

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	A	I	A	R	A	S	H	C	R	S
U	S	E	C	R	O	C	E	O	O	O
H	A	I	R	C	O	L	O	R	U	N
C	E	D	A	R	S	D	I	A	S	
A	L	A	D	O	G	C	R	E	S	S
P	I	N	S	N	O	S	P	I	F	A
S	E	T	T	I	N	T	H	E	O	R
A	R	O	D	A	R	A	R	A	T	
P	H	Y	S	I	O	M	R	I		
L	I	L	S	U	N	P	A	R	L	O
U	F	O	E	G	G	O	N	E	A	U
M	I	N	S	H	O	O	I	E	R	G

Yesterday's answer 3-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabby Barrett, 24; Kevin Connolly, 50; Matt Lucas, 50; Eva Mendes, 50.

Happy Birthday: Look, observe and act. What you do will make a difference. Set your sights high and be relentless in getting things done this year. Refuse to let temptation sidetrack you. It's OK to change your mind, reinvent yourself or change direction if you do so with heart and integrity. The universe is waiting; make your mark and see what happens. Your destiny lies within. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 28, 32, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The suggestions you offer may not fly initially, but if you are patient and polite, your words will gain value, and someone with insight will recognize what you bring to the table. Self-improvement will boost your morale and lead to compliments and opportunities. Romance is favored. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Expand your interests, learn something new and keep up with the times. How you master your skills to accommodate what's trending will help you stay on top of your game. Keep your private and professional lives separate. ☼☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What you want to achieve will require more than intellect. Doing work yourself will ensure success. Expect someone you think you can count on to let you down. Don't believe everything you hear. Get what you want in writing. ☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll make gains if you give your all. Rely on your track record, what works for you, and your ability to persuade others to do and see things

your way. Don't hold back; promote and present what you want to offer. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Examine relationships. Adjusting how you divvy your time will allow you to take the path that stimulates you most. Don't feel obligated to put someone else's needs ahead of yours. If you're happy, you'll be more inclined to bring joy to others. ☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Initiate the changes you want to make without hesitation. It will be at your expense if you stop to accommodate someone else. Take a rain check, offer an alternative or promise to return once you've handled pressing matters. Put your needs first. ☼☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your head down and don't look up until you complete what you are doing. Concentration and determination will help you outmaneuver any challenge you face. Be good to yourself and refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. ☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention and don't act prematurely. Gather facts, evaluate your situation and recognize the best place to channel your energy. Don't let anger take over when intuitive tactics and knowledge are your passages to success. ☼☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone push you in the wrong direction. Being able to say no will empower you to take charge and do what's best for you. Worry less about what others think and more about looking out for your best interests. ☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make changes that help you build equity. You'll discover you have more to work with than anticipated. Sell off what you don't need and invest in yourself and your quality of life. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands. ☼☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dial it down a notch and give yourself a chance to breathe. If you act in haste, you'll have a mess to clean up and questions to answer. Research and relying on experts will help you avoid taking on more than you can handle. ☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rely on yourself and lend a helping hand, and you'll open a door that leads to opportunities. Voice your opinion; your words will resonate with someone who will become instrumental in your journey forward. Don't hold back; be the one to make things happen. ☼☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are reliable, empathetic and direct. You are innovative and intriguing.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5		8			7	6	3		
			7	5	1			2	8	
								5		
	3		7			2				
				4	5	2		1	6	
			2	1		3		8		
4	1		9	7	5				2	
7			6		8			9		
	9	8			1			4		

Difficulty: ★★

3/5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	2	7	9	6	1	5	8
7	1	8	4	5	2	9	6	3
5	6	9	8	1	3	7	2	4
1	2	7	6	8	4	5	3	9
6	9	3	5	2	1	4	8	7
8	5	4	9	3	7	2	1	6
9	8	6	2	7	5	3	4	1
3	4	5	1	6	9	8	7	2
2	7	1	3	4	8	6	9	5

Difficulty: ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ANTIHISTAMINES **Solution: 10 letters**

B	R	A	N	D	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	I	D
N	A	S	A	L	S	P	R	A	Y	M	C	M	R	O
S	A	R	E	C	E	P	T	O	R	H	M	O	V	C
E	L	T	R	E	L	I	E	F	I	U	P	E	Y	T
I	L	R	U	I	O	R	A	L	N	S	R	N	R	O
T	E	U	S	R	E	E	D	E	T	R	H	I	O	R
I	R	F	Y	D	A	R	I	C	E	S	S	M	T	T
V	G	L	R	C	E	L	E	A	T	Y	A	A	N	
I	I	I	U	N	T	F	C	R	U	P	E	T	R	E
T	E	Q	P	S	F	T	A	N	E	Y	T	S	I	M
I	S	U	R	E	I	S	E	E	E	G	I	P	T	
S	O	I	E	O	K	L	L	S	L	E	G	H	S	A
N	F	D	N	I	L	S	T	C	E	S	N	I	E	E
E	I	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	R	R
S	Y	M	P	T	O	M	S	N	T	E	L	B	A	T

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Allergies, Barrier, Brands, Children, Directions, Doctor, Drops, Eyes, First, Fur, Gels, Generations, Histamine, Immune, Insects, Liquids, Nasal Spray, Natural, Nuts, Oral, Overreaction, Pollen, Rash, Receptor, Relief, Respiratory, Sensitivities, Side Effects, Skin, Sleepy, Symptoms, Syrup, Tablet, Treatment, Trigger

Yesterday's Answer: Lovesick
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 76, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

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Celtics rout weary Warriors for 3rd-biggest winning margin in franchise history



BOSTON (AP)—Jaylen Brown scored 29 points, Jayson Tatum had 27 on his 26th birthday and the NBA-leading Boston Celtics had the third-largest winning margin in franchise history, drubbing the weary Golden State Warriors 140-88 on Sunday.

Payton Pritchard added 19 points to help Boston extend its season-best winning streak to 11. The Celtics who set an NBA record with their third win this season by 50 points or more. They led by a franchise-record 44 points at halftime and pushed it to 51 early in the third quarter before coach Joe Mazzulla went to his reserves.

The Celtics led by a franchise-record 44 points at halftime and pushed it to 51 early in the third quarter before coach Joe Mazzulla went to his reserves.

Stephen Curry didn't play the second half and finished with a season-low four points for Golden State, his fewest since he had three points in 16 minutes on March 16, 2022 at Boston—a game he departed with a foot injury.

Curry was 2 of 13 from the field Sunday and missed all nine of his 3-point attempts, including consecutive airballs in the opening quarter.

The Warriors had won 11 of 13, including the first three of their East Coast trip that included three games in four days and a difficult trip to Toronto in which they sat on a tarmac for hours overnight.



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) looks to shoot at the basket as Golden State Warriors guard Lester Quinones (25) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 3, 2024, in Boston.

KNICKS 107, CAVALIERS 98

CLEVELAND (AP)—Josh Hart had a triple-double, Donte DiVincenzo scored 28 points and New York regrouped to beat Cleveland after losing All-Star guard Jalen Brunson in the first minute with a left knee injury.

Hart finished with 13 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists in helping the Knicks cope for one night without Brunson, their latest starter to get hurt.

Brunson was hurt on New York's first possession. Coming off a screen on the left side, Brunson rose for a jump shot near the foul line when he ap-

peared to feel pain on lift off. He shot an air ball and landed before stumbling and dropping to the floor near the 3-point line in obvious discomfort.

Sam Merrill and Jarrett Allen scored 18 apiece for the Cavs, who played without leading scorer Donovan Mitchell (sore knee) and top sub Caris LeVert (elbow).

THUNDER 118, SUNS 110

PHOENIX (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 35 points and Oklahoma City beat Phoenix to take the Western Conference lead, rebounding

after blowing a 24-point lead.

Jusuf Nurkic broke the Suns' franchise record with 31 rebounds, the most in an NBA game in 14 years. He also had 14 points—and five of Phoenix's 21 turnovers. The Suns played without star guard Devin Booker after he sprained his right ankle late in a loss to Houston on Saturday night.

Oklahoma City improved to 42-18 to take a half-game lead over Northwest Division rivals Denver and Minnesota in the Western Conference. The Thunder had won six in a row before losing Thursday night at San Antonio.

Bradley Beal scored 31 points for Phoenix.

CLIPPERS 89, TIMBERWOLVES 88

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kawhi Leonard had 32 points and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Minnesota in a physical and defensive game between two of the top four teams in the Western Conference.

Norman Powell matched a season-high with 24 points, and Paul George added 15 points, but shot just 5 of 16 from the field and was 3 of 11 from 3-point range.

The Clippers played with-

out Russell Westbrook after he fractured his left hand in a home victory over Washington on Friday night. Ivica Zubac returned after missing two games with an illness.

Anthony Edwards scored 27 points for Minnesota. The Timberwolves lost back-to-back games for just the third time this season.

76ERS 120, MAVERICKS 116

DALLAS (AP)—Tobias Harris scored 28 points, Tyrese Maxey added 24 and Philadelphia beat Dallas Mavericks 120-116 on Sunday.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 19 of his 21 points after the four-minute mark of the third quarter to help the 76ers win consecutive games for the second time in the 14 straight games Joel Embiid has missed. There is no timetable for the reigning MVP's return after surgery on his left knee.

Luka Dončić had 38 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Dallas his third consecutive triple-double. He also had seven of 17 turnovers for the sloppy Mavericks.

SPURS 117, PACERS 105

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Victor Wembanyama had 31 points and 12 rebounds to lead San Antonio Spurs past Indiana.

Wembanyama added six blocks, six assists and a steal while going 3 for 4 on 3-pointers. Malaki Branham had 18 points, and Devin Vassell and Keldon Johnson each had 17.

T.J. McConnell had 26 points for Indiana. The Pacers have lost three of four.

MAGIC 113, PISTONS 91

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 29 points for a second straight game and Orlando beat Detroit for a four-game season sweep.

At 35-26, the Magic surpassed last season's victory total with 21 games left. Orlando has won 11 of 14 games.

Evan Fournier led Detroit with 17 points. The Pistons are 9-51.

RAPTORS 111, HORNETS 106

TORONTO (AP)—Immanuel Quickley scored 22 points and matched his season high with 11 assists, RJ Barrett had 23 points and Toronto beat Charlotte.

Gary Trent Jr. added 17 points and Ochai Agbaji had 13 points and a career-high nine rebounds as the Raptors overcame the absence of All-Star Scottie Barnes after he broke his left middle finger Friday night.

Brandon Miller had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte.

Betts, Ohtani, Freeman make for impressive trio at the top of the Dodgers' batting order



G L E N - DALE, Ariz.

(AP)—With Mookie Betts, Shohei Ohtani and Freddie Freeman, the Los Angeles Dodgers have quite a trio at the top of their batting order.

That's a tough start for any pitcher.

Betts and Ohtani each had three hits and Freeman drove in two runs during Sunday's spring training game against the Colorado Rockies. Betts is 7 for 17 so far this spring, and Ohtani is 5 for 7 in limited action.

Betts and Freeman are beginning their third season together in LA, and Ohtani joined the two stars when he agreed to a \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Dodgers in December. Ohtani won't pitch this season while he recovers from major elbow surgery, but it sure looks as if the rest of his game is rounding into form.

Ohtani singled and scored on Will Smith's sacrifice fly in the first inning against the Rockies. The two-time AL MVP drove in Betts with a stand-up triple



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani, center, with interpreter Ippei Mizuhara, left, talks with coach Dino Ebel, right, during spring training baseball workouts at Camelback Ranch in Phoenix, Sunday, March 3, 2024.

in the second. It looked as if he thought his drive off the wall in center was going to be a home run. Ohtani started off in a jog before hustling into third when he realized the ball was in play.

He added an RBI single in the third before he was replaced by a pinch runner.

The Dodgers' next spring training game is Tuesday against the Angels, Ohtani's old team.

SETTLING IN

Chris Sale is looking pretty good in his first spring training with the Atlanta Braves.

The lanky left-hander struck out five in 2 2/3 scoreless innings in Atlanta's 3-2 win over Philadelphia in Florida. He allowed three hits—all singles—walked two and hit a batter.

Sale pitched two hitless innings in his spring debut against Pittsburgh on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Sale has been one of the majors' most dominant pitchers when he is healthy, but he has struggled with injuries over the years. He was acquired in a December trade with Boston.

He went 6-5 with a 4.30 ERA in 20 starts in his last year with the Red Sox.

FEELING GOOD

Detroit pitchers Matt Manning and Casey Mize continued their comebacks from injuries against the Yankees.

Manning started and allowed one hit—Juan Soto's 405-foot solo homer. The right-hander struck out four over three innings in his second outing.

"I had a conviction and command of all my pitches, and got a lot of swings and misses, a lot of strikes, kept them off balance," Manning said.

Manning's season was cut short in September when he was hit by a 119.5 mph comebacker off the bat of the Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton, breaking his right foot.

The 26-year-old Manning, who went 5-4 with a 3.58 ERA in 15 starts in 2023, also missed 2 1/2 months after being hit on the foot by a comebacker off the bat of Toronto

catcher Alejandro Kirk.

"Obviously, it was super unlucky to get hurt twice in the same way," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "But he started to blossom a little bit, you know. He needs innings. He's still very young, but talented."

Mize gave up one hit and walked two in two scoreless innings in Tampa, Florida. He threw 19 of 38 pitches for strikes.

The 26-year-old Mize is coming back from Tommy John and back surgeries. He was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 amateur draft.

"My body is moving a lot better," Mize said. "I'm moving quicker, I feel really explosive. I just need to hone that in."

REMEMBER HIM

Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his first Cactus League homer for San Diego, connecting for a two-run shot against Seattle right-hander Luis Castillo in the third inning. Ha-Seong Kim and Luis Campusano also went deep in the Padres' 12-4 victory in Peoria, Arizona.

Tatis' drive to left also was his first hit of spring training this year. He is 1 for 11 in six games.

Family ties link small group of combine invitees to famous football fathers



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Joe Alt had the perfect role model.

He grew up in Minnesota, became a big-time recruit and joined a major college football program. He made the same seamless transition from tight end to dominant left tackle. And now, he could be eight weeks away from becoming a first-round pick in the NFL draft.

Just like his father.

Sure, the All-American from Notre Dame seems to be following the same blueprint his father, John, used to carve out during a 13-year NFL career with the Kansas City Chiefs.

“One of the things he always taught me at a very young age was to refuse to lose and how to approach things, no matter what you do,” Alt said Saturday at the league’s annual scouting combine in Indianapolis. “If that means jumping and giving one last push, you can’t let that guy beat you and get to the ball.”

Defenders certainly couldn’t get the upper hand on Alt much over the past three seasons.



Notre Dame offensive lineman Joe Alt speaks during a press conference at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Saturday, March 2, 2024.

And even in Indianapolis, a dozen football sons seem destined to follow their dear old dads into pro football.

This year’s draft class includes some recognizable juniors such as receiver Marvin Harrison of Ohio State, linebacker Jeremiah Trotter of Clemson and running back

Frank Gore of Southern Mississippi. Receivers Brenden Rice of Southern California and Luke McCaffrey of Rice want to add to the family lineage of their Super Bowl champion fathers, Jerry Rice and Ed McCaffrey.

Heck, defensive tackle Jonah Elliss of Utah even played

at the same school and donned the same jersey number worn by Luther Elliss (83) all those years ago.

“It was cool,” the soon-to-be rookie Elliss said. “To be honest, when they asked me what number I wanted, I was like, ‘Oh, do you guys have single digits?’ They were like,

‘No.’ I said, ‘You can give me whatever then, I really don’t care what number.’ They were like, ‘Hey, your dad’s number is open.’ I said, ‘Yeah, sure.’ It was awesome.”

In some cases, these combine invitees are spitting images of players once by embraced by legions of fans.

Harrison’s Hall of Fame father let his play do most of the talking during his 13-year career with the Indianapolis Colts. Harrison Jr. didn’t speak to reporters at

all on Friday and didn’t work out on Saturday.

McCaffrey used his work-out to show scouts he could run and catch as well his All-Pro brother, Christian.

And while the 5-foot-8, 201-pound Gore Jr. checked in 1 inch shorter and 11 pounds lighter than his namesake, junior’s demeanor was like a carbon copy of the former third-round pick who wound up rushing for 16,000 career yards and could be headed to the Hall of Fame.

In other cases, the comparisons are more complicated.

While Trotter Jr. currently is projected to be a third-round pick, matching his father’s draft spot, he’s expected to play edge rusher. The elder Trotter was a four-time Pro Bowl middle linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles.

“The way he described my game and the way I like to describe my game is that I’m an old-style mindset linebacker in a new-age body,” Trotter Jr. said. “He says I’m more athletic than him, but we have different playing styles, different body types and I feel like I’ve got a lot of capability beyond linebacker.”

Each player has two things in common—the stories and the reactions to their surnames. Those are the family ties that bring this group together.

O’SULLIVAN

From page 16

to stave them off.

With a bunch of races stacked in March and April, the Hyatt Regency Saipan pastry chef said he’ll be joining the 2024 Saipan Marathon’s half marathon race next week. Then, “we’ll see from there how my body’s moving after that.” Run Saipan Edward Dela Cruz Jr. “has really stacked everything one on top of the other. I might have to be a little more selective, but Run Saipan’s done such a great job. It’s kind of hard to say no because everything’s so well organized,” said O’Sullivan.

As for Saipan International School student-athlete, Adalee, she returned to first place form in this race after topping all three of the Run Saipan



Participants of the Run Saipan Mangrove '24 race pose for a group photo last Saturday from the American Memorial Park to the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park and back.

Trinity '24 races last January.

This was her first time running the Mangrove 5K course and was confused for a bit but found her way and was still the fleetest female afoot.

“The race was good. There were a lot of turns,” she said. She was in the lead the whole time amongst the female runners, but on one turnaround, Bang, who came in second,

was about 200m behind her.

The 13-year-old middle school student said she is joining the 10K event of the upcoming 2024 Saipan Marathon.

AUDIE

From page 16

nings over four games, had the lowest ERA of 1.91, a record of 2-0, 14 hits against him, and three earned runs.

Blue Jays’ Kevin Kapileo was the strikeout king by a landslide with 51 strikeouts.

Maratita immediately gave thanks for his award after the ceremony. “I want to give thanks to the Lord and my teammates. They were really good,” said the 44-year-old. He dedicated his award to his late mother and father, and his wife, Alfreda Maratita.

On how he felt when his team won the championship,

he said, “It was all teamwork—from pinch runs, to good base running, good catching, and good pitching thanks to Pete [Sablan]. Everybody’s been hitting.” He said that they’ll definitely be back next season to defend their title.

As for what he thought

of the Masters League, “it’s fun. The crowds—everybody came out. Thanks to the fans. Without them, we’re nothing here.”



The 2023 Tan Holdings-SBL Masters League individual awardees pose for a group photo with SBL board members last Wednesday at the Francisco ‘Tan Ko’ Palacios Baseball Field.

3-PEAT

From page 16

Pebbley, in an interview after the game, said that their principal and coach, Jonas Barcinas, pushed them hard and helped them a lot in training.

Teammate Shynelle Yamada said, “all the training was really hard, but it paid off.” Germaya Sellem added that the competition was “great,” although it was “a little bit hard.”

In round-robin play, the Umangs went undefeated with four wins. In the playoffs, they defeated Tinian Elementary School to secure the top spot in the winner’s bracket.

With Pebbley, Yamada, and Sellem are Alex Aveina, David Billy, Dean Aldan, Christopher Deleon Guerrero, Tommy Moses, Justin Defang, Vincent Matteo, Giovanna Igisaiar, Rose Shoray, Mary Fital, Nianale Mettao, and Liseipischaang Wabol.

The Kingfishers were made up of Mekean Iguel, Dilen Quitugua, Beniah Murphy, Juan Damian, Conan Iakopo, Elena Taisakan, Aureya Saralu, Astrid Masiwemai, Joscelyn Wenio, Aliyah Sablan, and Azaleah Magofna.

Umangs coach Francis Mendiola, who also coached the past two championship teams, said “we feel happy. The stu-

dents worked hard and they learned from all the coaches—KobES principal Jonas Borja and Erlwin Aguirre.” He said that most of their players are promoting to middle school and would have to restart next season.

KobES principal Jonas Barcinas said the strategy was a “blanket defense.” He said, “we want to make sure they know how to receive the ball—whether it’s a hard or high serve. We taught them the basic fundamentals, and that’s the result of what we’ve been working on, so kudos to our kids and our coaches.”

Aguirre added that they also incorporated teamwork. “Motivation and positivity, and momentum. This sport is all about momentum and that’s how we pulled through with our victory.”

Mendiola attributed their win and high-level of skills and play to Barcinas and Aguirre. “Their skill level went up this year. The past two years, they were good, but this year, it’s a much better team because of these two and their expertise in preparing them.”

Barcinas then thanked the CNMI PSS Athletics Program and its director Nick Gross, KobES staff, coaches, and all the students that support their team.



Celtics rout weary Warriors for 3rd-biggest winning margin in franchise history.

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Family ties link small group of combine invitees to famous football fathers.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3-peat for Umangs 1 in co-ed volleyball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Koblerville Elementary School Umangs 1 went out in style as they clinched their third championship in a row in the NMIVA-PSS Co-ed Elementary School Volleyball Tournament 2023-2024 at the Oleai Sports Complex last Saturday.

Umangs 1 sent off their fifth graders with their school's third straight championship as they defeated Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins in two straight sets, 21-13, 21-15.

It was a back-and-forth volley for both teams from the get-go under the blazing Saturday morning sun. However, it was clear in

the last points of the first set that the Umangs had a slight advantage with their better defense and less mistakes on their returns.



The Umangs took advantage of their momentum in the first set and won with an 8-point margin.

Reprieve came a little too late for the Blue Marlins as



LEIGH GASES

Koblerville Elementary School Umangs 1's Leiha'ani Pebley serves during their championship game against Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins in the NMIVA-PSS Co-ed Elementary School Grass Volleyball Tournament 2023-2024 at the Oleai Sports Complex last Saturday.

O'Sullivan, Taflinger fastest in Mangrove 5K

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Pastry chef Jody O'Sullivan cooked it up on the course and topped the Run Saipan Mangrove 5K '24 race last Saturday.

Meanwhile, youngster Addalee Taflinger was the fastest female on the course from American Memorial Park, through Smiling Cove Marina, then to the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park and back.

O'Sullivan sprinted to the finish line in a break-neck time of 17:13, followed by Landen Taflinger at 18:40, then Jordan Ruiz topped off the Top 3 men's with a time of 19:15.

Addalee finished with a time of 21:02; An Bang was

second at 22:46; and third place was Angela Taflinger who clocked in at 23:54.

O'Sullivan, a finalist on Season 8 of the Food Network's Holiday Baking Championship, has been racking up first place wins in foot races he's joined in Saipan so far. He said of this most recent race, "I liked the later start time. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking the 6:30am start time is ideal."

The course, which he's familiar with, "was lovely. It was nice and flat. The concrete makes a huge difference, it really does."

O'Sullivan led the whole way but said Landen and Ruiz really pushed through the first turnaround, and still managed

See O'SULLIVAN on Page 15



Taflinger



O'Sullivan

they were down, 11-19, in the second set. Substitute Azaleah Magofna had the last run for Kagman as they tried to stage a comeback with her unreturnable serves. They made it to 15-19, but an out-of-bounds serve gave the advantage to the Umangs, 20-19.

Leiha'ani Pebley had the last serve for the Umangs, and with a long volley, the Blue Marlins made a mistake on the return and handed the third straight championship to the south side.

See 3-PEAT on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Koblerville Elementary School Umangs pose with their trophies and medals during the awards ceremony of the NMIVA-PSS Co-ed Elementary School Grass Volleyball Tournament 2023-2024 at the Oleai Sports Complex last Saturday.

Audie Maratita sweeps Masters League MVP awards

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Pirates' Audie Maratita was hailed not only as the 2023 Tan Holdings-SBL Masters League's regular season most valuable player, but also the championship series MVP after leading his team to the Promised Land.

Maratita's neck glistened with his five medals during the championship awards ceremony last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Maratita was the regular sea-

son's second batting leader with a .645 batting average from 20 hits out of 31 at-bats. Not only that, he claimed the most RBIs with 20, the most doubles at eight, and was one out of just four other batters with a homer.

He then claimed the championship series MVP award after a dominant performance of a .538 batting average from seven hits out of 13 at-bats, and racked up two doubles, two home runs, and 10 RBIs over the best-of-three finals.

Not only was the MVP award announced, but also two Golden Glove awards for the champi-

onship game. For the infield, the award went to Pirates shortstop Jerome Delos Santos. The Golden Glove award for the outfield was given to Dodgers right fielder Ed Manibusan.

The regular season leaders were also awarded, starting with the batting champion, the second place Dodgers' Glen Camacho. He boasted a .652 batting average from 15 of 23 hits.

The runs scored champion was Derek Aguon with 23, and the triples champion was Cartfield Sablan with three.

Over on the bump, the pitching champion was the Pirates' Pete Sablan. He pitched 11 in-

See AUDIE on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

The Pirates' Audie Maratita poses with his five batting category awards medals and team's championship pennant trophy during the awards ceremony of the 2023 Tan Holdings-SBL Masters League last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.